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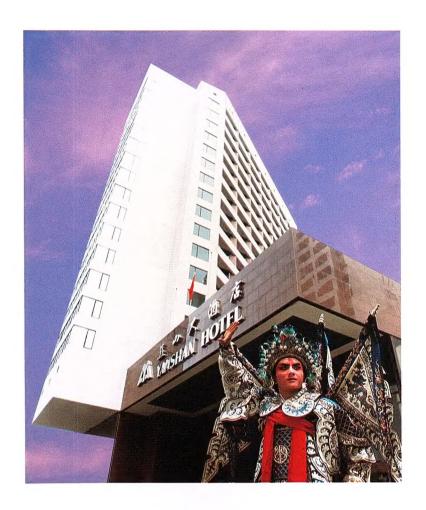
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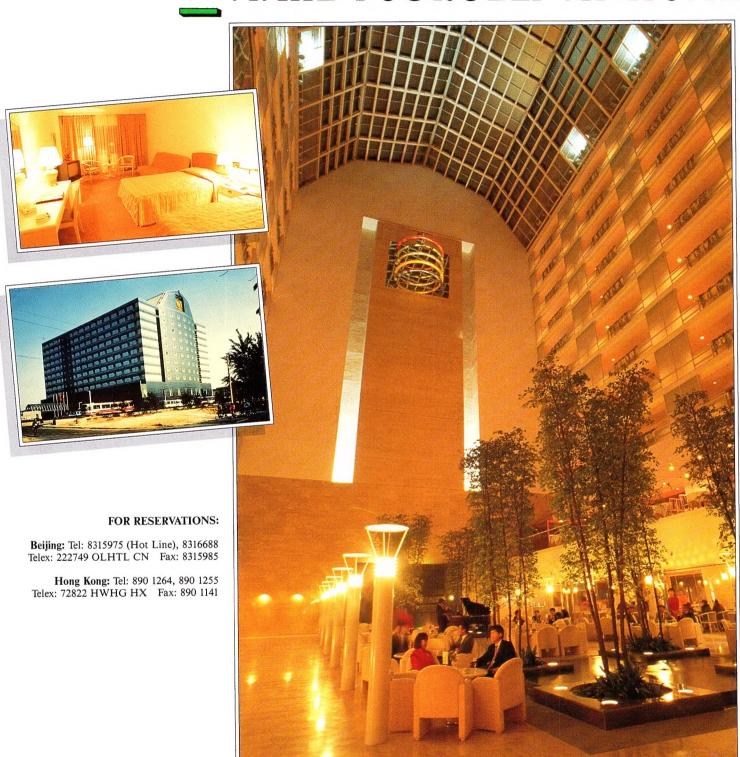
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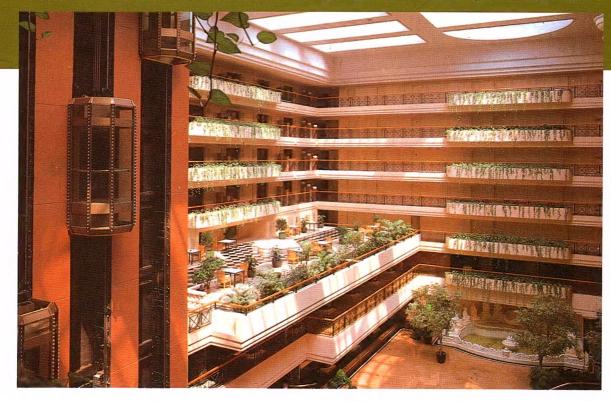




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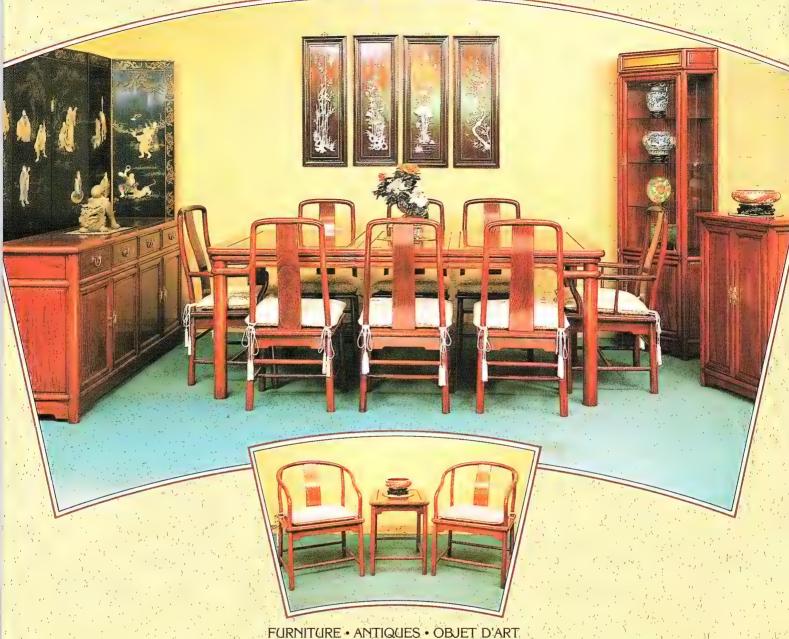
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EDITORIAL

China's Capital Takes a Bow

It is some time since we devoted an issue to Beijing, the capital of China. In fact, our last Beijing Special was no. 86, published more than three years ago.

Now, at a time when the eyes of the world (or at least Asia) have been focused on Beijing as the host of the 11th Asian Games, it seems appropriate for us to make amends for this neglect.

In the intervening years, Beijing's tourism industry has been dealt some very hard blows but has utilized the slack period to strengthen its infrastructure and improve its services. In this issue we are pleased to include an extensive, up-to-date Hotel Directory and supplementary information which should prove of value to those visiting the capital, whether on business or pleasure.

Rest assured, however, that apart from amassing increased practical information, our photographers and reporters roamed far and wide to capture impressions which will arouse memories in those who have been to Beijing and, hopefully, stimulate interest in those who have yet to visit this metropolis steeped in history. The Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace ... names evoking the achievements of the Ming and Qing dynasties in particular, when twenty-four emperors ruled China from the Forbidden City over five centuries. But Beijing was also Dadu, the 'great capital' of Kublai Khan, from 1261 and a capital as far back as the State of Yan of the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods (770-221 B.C.) when its name was Ji.

A final reminder for local readers and visitors to Hong Kong about our exhibition entitled 'Land of the Dragon'. Presenting prizewinners and selected entries from our recent Grand Photo Contest, it is being held at the Museum of Chinese Historical Relics in Wanchai from October 25–28 this year.





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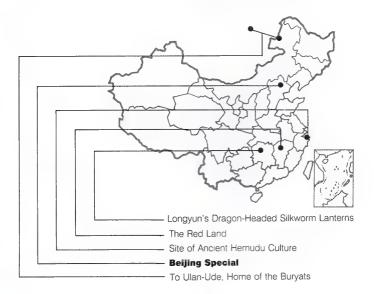
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PUBLISHER:

H.K. China Tourism Press 17/F., V. Heun Building 138 Queen's Road Central Hong Kong Tel: 541 1331 Telex: 82225 HKCTP HX Cable: HKCATMPS Fax: 854 1721

Consultants: T.K. Ann, Ian Fok Chun Wan, Lam Chun, Soman Lo, Ma Chi Man, Ma Lin, Wong Tak Hoi, James T. Wu, Yam Chun Hon. Howard Young

Director: Tchan Fou-li Vice Director: Chai Ying Vice General Managers: Zhang Guorong, Liu Pit Mui Editor-in-Chief: Chai Ying

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Editorial Dept.: 541 9980 Managing Dept.: 541 1331 Advertising Dept.: 541 1331 Trade Service Dept.: 541 1331 Photo Loan Dept.: 541 1331

Colour Separation: Goody Colour Separation Ltd.

Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd.

Printer: C & C Offset Printing Co. Ltd. 75 Pau Chung St., Kln., H.K. Tel: 713 5175

AGENCIES:

Hong Kong: T. Watson Distributors Ltd.

Australia: Gordon and Gotch Ltd., 25–37

Huntingdale Road, Burwood, Victoria 3125

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Brazil: Comercio Impotdora Konmin Ltda.

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U.S.A.: China Periodical Distribution, Los Angeles

Oriental Culture Enterprise Co., New York China Daily Distribution Corp., New York

SUBSCRIPTION AGENCIES:

(Please refer to subscription data at back of book)

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News-stand price: HK\$25

Beijing SPECIAL

City of Superlatives

TEXT BY TIAN HUO

ur first look at some of Beijing's most celebrated sights is from the air. These include places of great antiquity such as the Temple of Heaven and the Forbidden City—the religious and temporal stamping grounds of the emperors of the Ming and Qing dynasties—but also sites developed only in the recent past such as Tian'anmen Square and Chang'an Avenue.



Beihai Park, one of the loveliest places in Beijing, has a history of over eight hundred years. Centred around a lake, its kiosks, pavilions and towers rise from among luxuriant trees and shrubs. Rulers and emperors have taken delight in adding to its attractions and amenities. It continues to enjoy the affection of ordinary Beijing families who come to hire a rowing boat for an hour or two in summer and to skate on the frozen lake in winter.

The island in the centre of the lake, Qionghua, is dominated by the White Dagoba, a Tibetan Buddhist structure erected in 1651 to honour the fifth Dalai Lama's visit to Beijing. Fangshan, the restaurant famous for its Qing imperial cuisine, is located on the northern shore of the island in Yilantang (Hall of Ripples).

In the northwestern part of Beihai Park is an area where Emperor Qianlong had many buildings erected along the shore. We see from the air the green and yellow tiles of Xiaoxitian (Little Western Heaven) with, beyond, the Botanical Gardens fronted by the Wulongting (Five Dragon Pavilions) in the lake, and Jingxin (Tranquil Heart) Study glinting in the sun's rays.

(Photo by Hu Weibiao)



When one enters the Forbidden City on foot for the first time, its sheer vastness (more than nine thousand rooms!) and grandeur are overwhelming, leaving one a little numbed by the experience, barely able to assimilate one's impressions.

However, from the air, it is easier to appreciate its organization and absolute symmetry, the perfection of its layout. This was the very heart of the empire, guarded from the gaze of the common folk by high red walls from within which no less than twenty-four emperors ruled China from 1420 to 1911.

We are looking north from Jinshuiqiao (the Bridge of Golden Water) and the Tian'anmen Gate, with Beihai Park's White Dagoba visible in the upper left.

(Photo by Hu Weibiao)

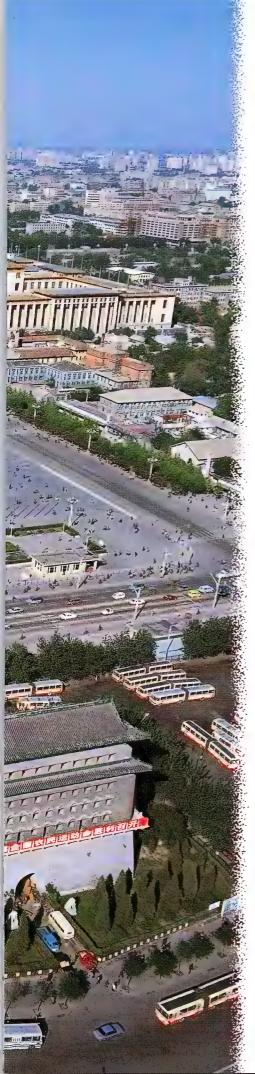
One of Beijing's more recent developments is Chang'an (Heavenly Peace) Avenue which sweeps across the northern limit of Tian'anmen Square below the Tian'anmen Gate. Broad and unyielding, it stretches east and west for a full seven kilometres, from Jianguomen Gate in the east to Fuxingmen Gate in the west. Dating only from the 1950s, it was laid out on the line of the old city walls and has brought a totally new emphasis to the capital's flow, away from the traditional north-south alignment.

West of the Forbidden City and north of Chang'an Avenue lies the enclave called Zhongnanhai. Once part of the imperial enclave, its lake a southward continuation of Beihai, this is the seat of the State Council and where the leaders of modern China live. It is off-limits to tourists and to ordinary Chinese citizens.

(Photo by Ye Yongcai)







Claimed to be the largest square in the world, Tian'anmen Square is a relatively recent creation when you consider Beijing's great age. It takes its name from the Tian'anmen Gate to its north, but attained its present dimensions solely with the founding of the People's Republic of China. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, most of the area was taken up by ministries, but the central area was walled and access was restricted to officials.

Today, the square covers an area of around forty hectares and is 500 metres wide and 880 metres deep towards the Qianmen Gate (seen in the foreground). Surrounded by major national institutions such as the Great Hall of the People (to the left) and the Museum of Chinese History (to the right), it is much appreciated in normal times by Beijing's citizens as an 'open lung' – a place where they can wander in the evening, flying kites, gossiping, or otherwise enjoying themselves. In many ways, it is the 'pulse' of the people of Beijing and thus of the Chinese nation as a whole.

(Photo by Ye Yongcai)



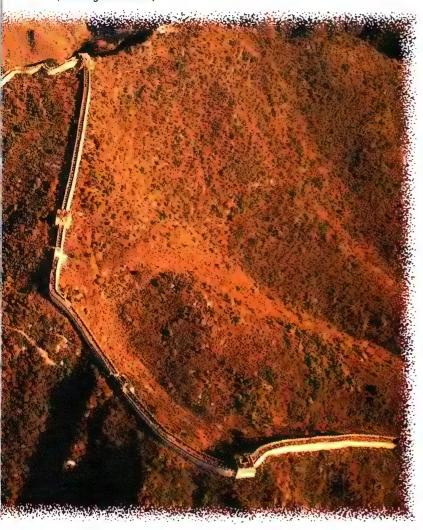




It hardly seems necessary to identify the Great Wall, such is the fame of this supreme symbol of China. The longest wall in the world, without any doubt, it is also reputedly visible from space.

Its construction over the centuries cost the lives of thousands of labourers, as folk stories still recall, and generations of soldiers spent their days and nights on its ramparts. In the final analysis, it proved ineffective against sundry invaders, including the Mongols who produced the Yuan dynasty and the Manchus from the northeast who founded the last feudal dynasty of China, the Qing. And yet it is truly magnificent, something to make the viewer's heart soar. Especially when you reflect that it stretches for more than 6,000 kilometres from the Shanhaiguan Pass on the Hebei coast as far as the Jiayuguan Pass in far-off Gansu. This is without doubt one of the world's great wonders.

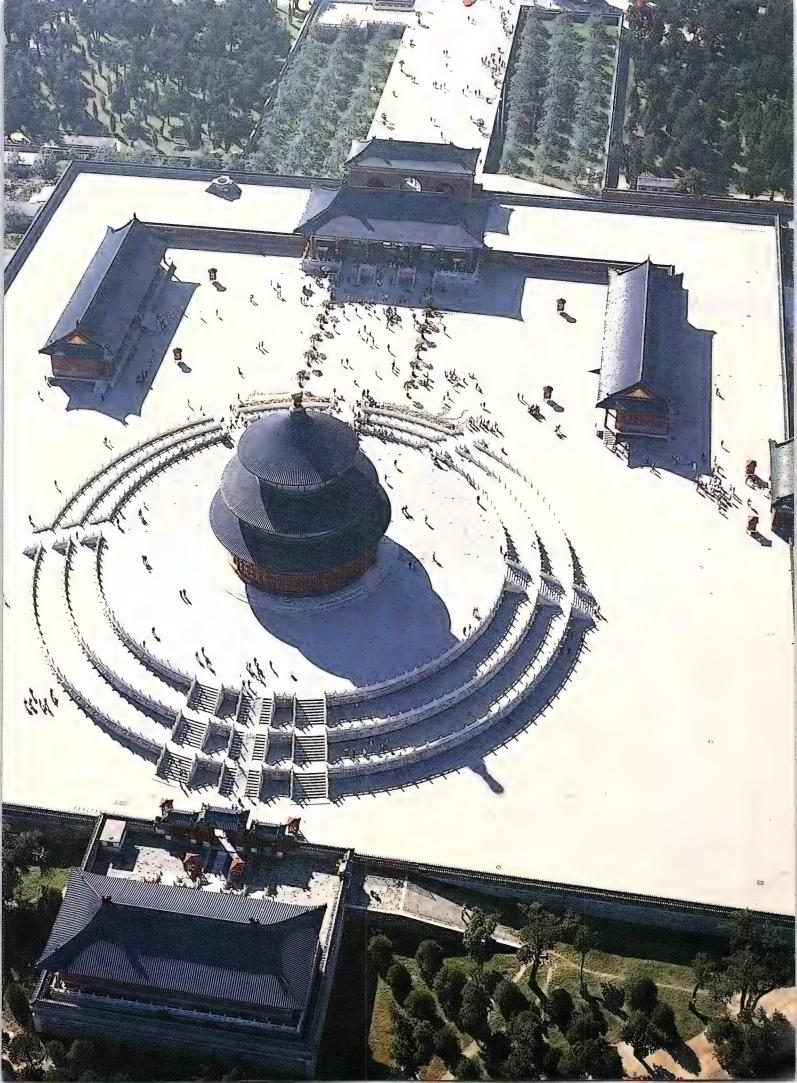
(Photo by Hu Weibiao)

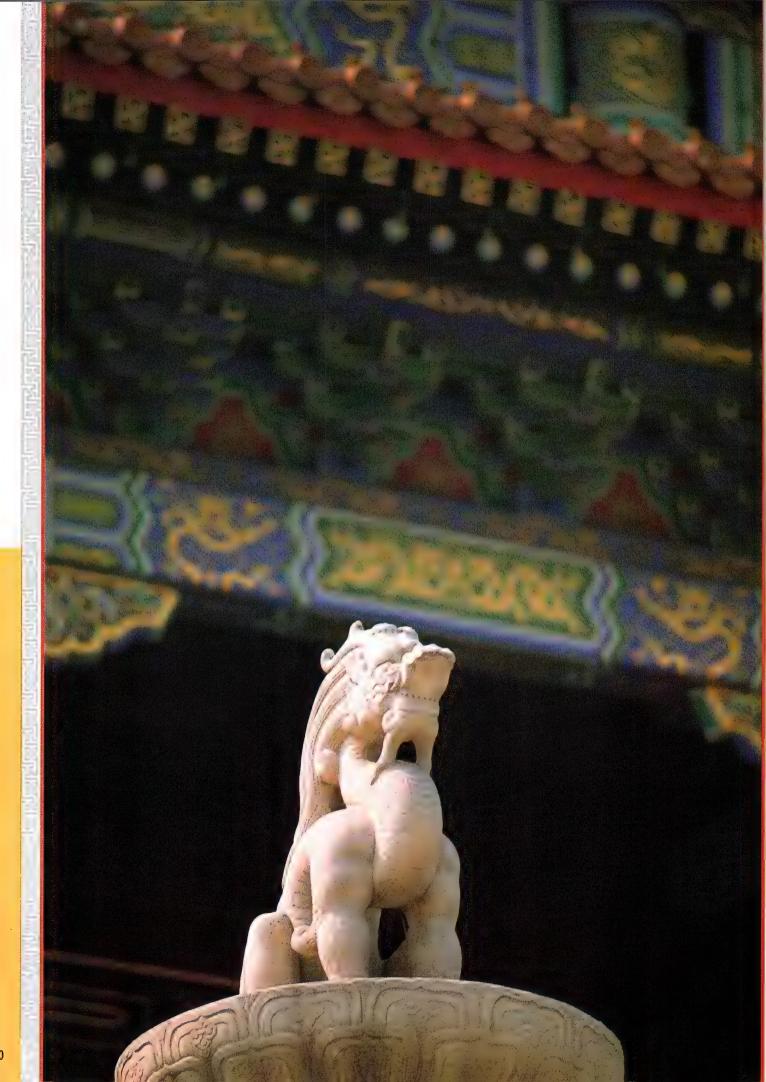


Tiantan, the Temple of Heaven, built in 1420, was the holiest place in the Chinese empire under the Ming and Qing and nothing in Beijing can match its stark, exquisite beauty. This was where the emperor, the 'Son of Heaven', would come to sacrifice to the only power superior to himself, appearing alone on the great white marble altar which is one of the three main structures to pray for rain and for good harvests for his people. The complex covers an агеа — 273 hectares - which is twice the size of the Forbidden City. Every curve, every angle, of the buildings here reflects the symbolization of heaven and earth, and numerologists have had a field day with the mathematical components of the layout. In the northern part of the complex stands the Qiniandian (Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests). The circular temple with its superb triple-eaved roof covered with glazed tiles the colour of the sky surges thirty-eight metres from a three-tiered circular white marble dais, set in its turn on a square terrace. Nine is the number for the emperor and for heaven, the highest of the high, and this figure, its components (3×3) and its multiples crop up again and again in the imperial architecture of Beijing. (Photo by Ye Yongcai)

Translated by Gu Weizhou









Beijing SPECIAL

Majestic Tian'anmen

TEXT BY LAM KIN FAI



Hou, lion-like beasts (1), guard the magnificent Tian'anmen Gate (3, by Wang Wenbo). From the gate-tower you overlook the immensity of Tian'anmen Square (2) (1 and 2 by Lam Kin Fai).



By no means the first of China's capitals, Beijing has gradually come to represent the heart of the nation since 1264, when Kublai Khan, the first emperor of the Yuan dynasty and grandson of Genghis, established his capital Khanbalik here. Except for a brief period during the upheavals of the first half of this century, it has remained the capital ever since.

Tian'anmen, the Gate of Heavenly Peace, was the main entrance during the Ming and Qing dynasties to the Imperial Palace. This was where imperial proclamations and edicts were read out by officials from the Board of Ceremonies, including the edict announcing the abdication of the last Qing emperor, Puyi, in 1911. It was also here that Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China on October 1 1949.

Tian anmen is not the original name. When a wooden gate-tower was built on this spot in 1417 by the Ming emperor Chengzu, it was called Chengtianmen, meaning 'Receiving Orders from Heaven'. The present name and present form were acquired in 1651 during the Shunzhi reign of the Qing.

The massive base ten metres high is built from huge bricks painted red. This is pierced by five arched gateways (directly opposite the five graceful central arches of Jinshuiqiao, the Bridge of Golden Water). On top stands the gate-tower proper, an all-wood structure, its roof rising almost thirty-four metres above the ground. A white marble balustrade frames the gate-tower on all sides.

The main hall in the gate-tower has an east-to-west length equal to that of nine standard rooms and a north-to-south depth of five standard rooms, the numbers nine and five signifying the highest rank and having the greatest auspicious value in feudal China. In addition, the hall is supported on sixty red-painted pillars, sixty being a complete cycle in the time-counting system of ancient China, signifying eternal dynastic rule.

Once Tian'anmen was accessible only to the highest dignitaries. Now that the rostrum is at last open to the general public (and that only since January 1988), people flock to view it. The visitors — mainly elderly Chinese tourists — comment on the huge oil painting entitled *The Inauguration Ceremony of the People's Republic of China* which hangs in the main hall and try to identify the VIPs depicted, but the select cultural relics and furnishings displayed in the hall seem to attract little interest.

The gate-tower is not high compared to the modern structures which have sprung up all over Beijing. For several hundred years, however, it would have lorded it over the single-storey dwellings of the commoners. From the rostrum, you feel as though you have the whole world at your feet. Tian'anmen Gate dominates the vast Tian'anmen Square to its south which has witnessed so many of the vicissitudes of modern Chinese history.

The northern side of the tower gives an unparalleled view over the yellow roofs of the palaces, halls and corridors of the Forbidden City.

What a sight it must have been when on his rare sorties outside the palace—mainly for the rites at Tiantan (Temple of Heaven)—the five gateways of Tian'anmen opened simultaneously and the 'Son of Heaven' emerged in his golden palanquin surrounded by civil and military officials and a ceremonial guard. The central gate was reserved purely for his use, as was the central arch of Jinshuiqiao.

Although commoners were forbidden to look upon his face, somebody was always watching. Either side of the entrance stands a huabiao, an ornamental pillar ten metres high, topped by a hou, a lion-like beast. These two gaze at the sky and are known as 'Watch the Emperor In'. According to popular legend, they watched over the emperor's doings outside the palace, anxiously awaiting his return. A similar pair of pillars inside the gate has hou facing the palace known as 'Watch the Emperor Out'. They were to remind the emperor not to hide within his palace walls dallying with his concubines, but to go out and try to understand the problems of his subjects.







The ornate main hall of the gate-tower (1, by Lan Po) contains treasures such as this cloisonné pot (2, by Ren Chenming) and historical paintings (4, by Lam Kin Fai). Tian'anmen Gate decked out for a national festival (3, by Wang Wenbo).





The fifteenth and sixteenth days of the first lunar month are traditionally the time for a grand procession by the villagers of Zhuanghu and Qianjuntai at Mentougou in Beijing's western suburbs. Drums are beaten, the trumpets blare, and villagers dressed in their colourful best parade along the roads with huge banners. This is believed to attract good luck for the year's harvest. People from the city come out to join in the fun.

(Photo by Wang Wenbo)

Beijing SPECIAL

Beijing Enters the '90s

PHOTOS BY CHAN YAT NIN TEXT BY JI SI

The Spring Festival (Lunar New Year) falls early in the year, well before the advent of the true spring in northern China. Yet this festival marks a definite turning-point. Here are a few images of Beijing life in the first spring of the 1990s.

The kite is a Chinese invention which is popular all over the country, with adults as much as with children. Cao Xueqin (?–1763), author of A Dream of Red Mansions and a great kite expert, wrote a celebrated book on kite-flying while living in Beijing. Beijingers love to fly kites, especially in the auspicious winds of the spring. Favourite places are Tian'anmen Square and — as here — Tiantan (Temple of Heaven) Park. The tiger kite is jointed and folds up flat for easy transport and storage.

(Photo by Wang Wenlan)



The second day of the first lunar month is when many people like to go and see an open-air opera performance at the Longtan Temple Fair. A little snow is not enough to deter true enthusiasts! Interesting to note the re-emergence of a hairstyle popular twenty or thirty years ago. Or is this young lady a performer awaiting her turn?

(Photo by Cui Youli)



In northern China, the second day of the new year is also dedicated to paying visits to parents, relatives and friends — regardless of the weather. All public transport is packed to capacity, so it is best to have your own way of getting around. Beijing bicycles and tricycles are noted for their extraordinary capacity!

(Photo by Feng Zhenguang)

Another temple fair takes place at the Confucius Temple on Guozijian Street in northeastern Beijing not far from Ditan (Temple of Earth) Park. Traditional games and sports always find favour with people looking for entertainment, particularly martial arts. This wrestling bout has the local fair-goers transfixed.

(Photo by Xiang Wei)





The Spring Festival is the most important and the longest holiday of the year. Everybody has time to enjoy themselves. This elderly man has dusted off his cymbals and does not intend to be left out of the festivities. He is showing off his skills as a member of a band in the Haidian District.

(Photo by Mao Zhongyu)





Winter definitely has its charms ... especially if you don't have to trudge to school or work through the snow and ice. It is so cold in Beijing that the lakes commonly freeze over. This is Houhai (Rear Lake), great for skating and sledding. But the fishermen do not stop their hobby: they just make a hole in the ice and go right on fishing! (Photo by Wang Wenbo)



One of the things which most amazes early-rising foreign tourists is the amount of activity going on just after dawn. Beijingers flock to the parks or any suitable open space (here in front of the Workers' Stadium) to do exercises, whether *taijiquan*, *qigong* or dancing. Old and young gather, as music pours from a cassette player, to try out ballroom dancing while the shyer stand and look on. Afterwards, invigorated and warmed up for the day, everybody will grab his or her bike and head off to office and factory.

(Photo by Wang Wenbo)



The former Imperial Ancestral Temple on the eastern side of the Tian'anmen Gate has been the Working People's Cultural Palace since 1950. It has a library, theatre, cinema and sports facilities, and also stages exhibitions, especially on public holidays. Pedlars swarm here, attracting the attention of potential customers any way they can, like pedlars the world over.

(Photo by Zhan Yusen)



The younger generation still prefers rock-'n'-roll (or maybe Cantopop from Hong Kong!). Cui Jian is a Beijing star who gave a concert early this year to raise funds for the 11th Asian Games, taking place this September and October. The hall was packed as the husky-voiced singer performed his hit Penniless.

(Photo by Wang Miao)





Nowadays, most Chinese families — and certainly those living in the cities — only have one child as a result of population pressure on this country which contains almost a quarter of the world's people. Unfortunately, all the attention heaped on single children by parents and grandparents often results in 'Little Emperors', spoilt and unused to interaction with other children.

(Photo by Wang Wenbo)

Beijing is much more inward-looking and reserved than Shanghai or Guangzhou, the Chinese 'capitals' of business and fashion. Yet this shop specializing in imported jewellery is said to be doing well as its reputation spreads.

(Photo by Wang Wenyang)

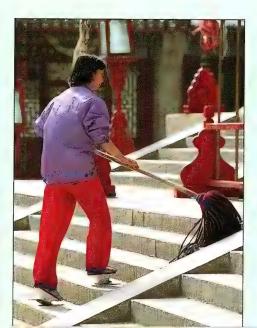




The Summer Palace, one of the largest parks in China, was reconstructed in the late Qing dynasty on the orders of the Empress Dowager Cixi with funds set aside for the modernization of the Chinese navy. Realistic wax images of this redoubtable woman, the *de facto* ruler of China for forty years, now lurk in various locations in the Summer Palace. Since she is now harmless, why not have a souvenir snap taken with her for posterity?



Although Beijing has a huge population of around ten million, it is lucky in that it has a lot of parks — most of them former imperial parks and gardens. Large numbers of trees have also been planted throughout the city, hundreds of thousands alone for the 11th Asian Games. Beijingers patronize their public parks frequently: for morning exercises, to take in the fresh air, to keep the children amused.... The entrance fee is usually minimal.



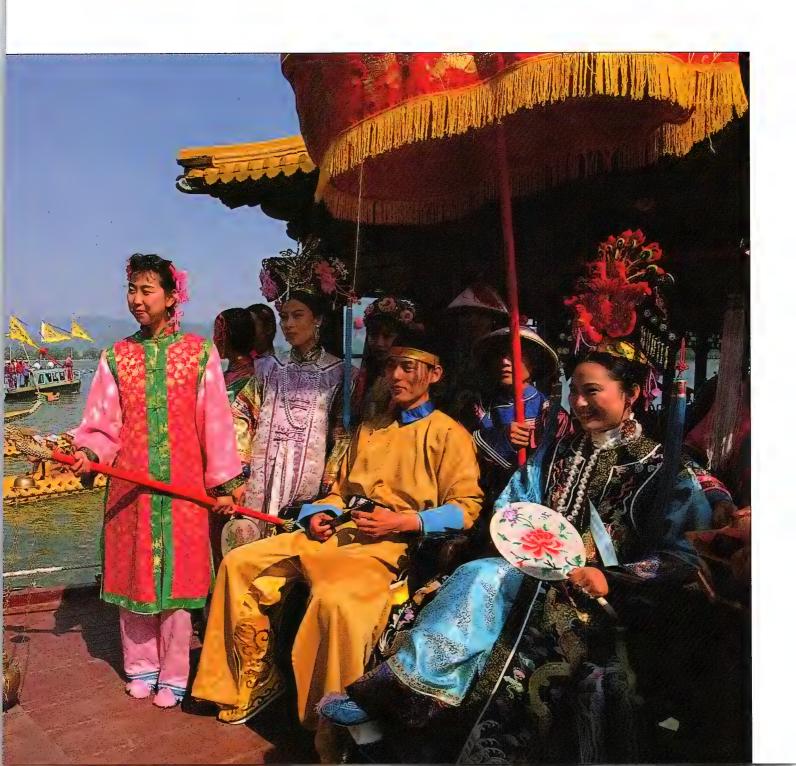
What's this? High-heeled Manchu pattens, seventy-nine years after the fall of the Qing dynasty? In fact, the attendants at the Summer Palace must give a hand with cleaning every day before the park's gates open. This one is already wearing Manchu costume under her jacket so that all she needs to do before welcoming the first visitors is don the elaborate high headdress.

One Sunday in late spring this year, Lake Kunming drew vast crowds to watch a special dragon boat race put on to publicize the 11th Asian Games. Because of the Summer Palace's strong associations with the Empress Dowager Cixi, both Cixi and her nephew — Emperor Guangxu — joined in the fun in the form of actors on a splendid imperial dragon boat. *Noblesse oblige!*



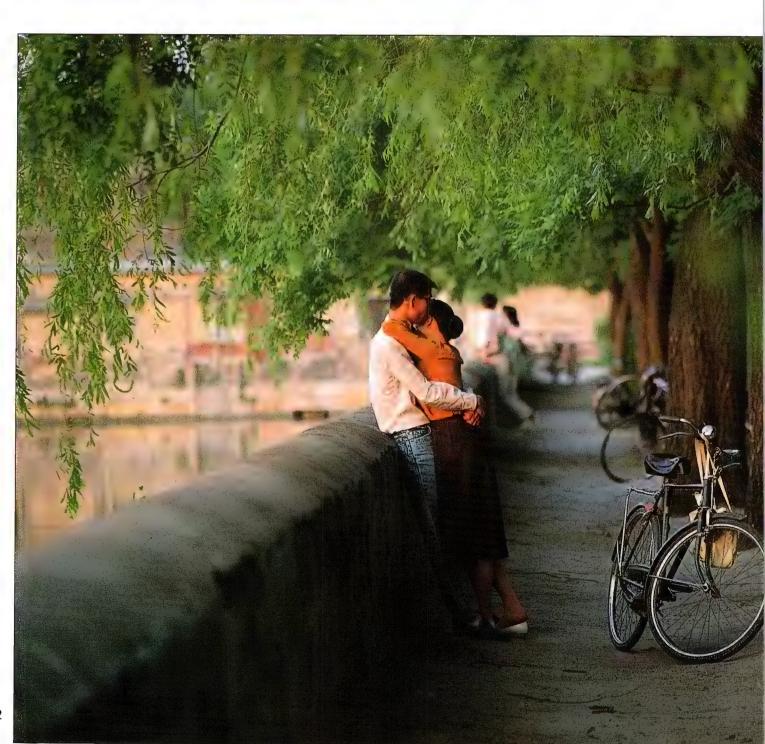
The so-called Long Corridor — it is 728 metres long — at the Summer Palace is a well-known promenade for Beijingers and out-of-towners alike. Set along the north shore of Lake Kunming, it catches the breezes and is a godsend in summer. The crossbeams of its 373 bays are painted with landscapes, historical and legendary figures, flowers and birds. Here families come to chat, the lazy to find a spot for a nap, students to read....







The colour yellow and the five-clawed dragon were the symbols of the emperor. Only the emperor, his sons, and princes of the first and second rank were entitled to use them; princes of lesser rank had to resort to four-clawed dragons. What only a century ago would have been an unthinkable sacrilege — a commoner putting on the imperial robe! — can now be indulged in by one and all at the Duanmen Gate in the Forbidden City.

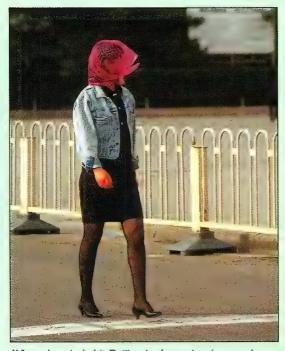


People from the Chinese provinces share a single dream: to get to Beijing and see Tian'anmen Square ... and have their photo taken there to prove it! These two are on the way to the railway station but cannot leave the capital without the near obligatory snapshot in the square.





The moat which surrounds the Forbidden City is lined by weeping willows, forming a pleasantly secluded and shady walk much favoured by young couples. Social customs are changing in certain respects. Not so long ago, Beijing society frowned even on holding hands in public.



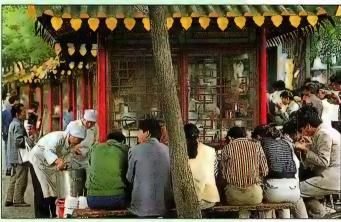
When the winds hit Beijing in the spring (or anywhen throughout the year), you suddenly remember how close you are to the northern steppes and deserts. The sky turns a brownish-yellow, and the sand and dust reach into every nook and cranny. A veil protects a young beauty's complexion, but you are just as likely to see a baby wrapped up in its entirety against the flying grit.

The Museum of Chinese History on the eastern side of Tian'anmen Square was still closed to the public this spring, as was the square itself. The armed policemen stationed there did their morning drill, riot shields and all, in front of the museum. An extra programme for the intrepid visitor armed with a telephoto lens....

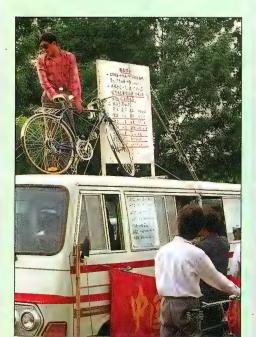




Food and everything to do with it are of consuming interest to the average Chinese person. Places to eat in the capital have mushroomed over the last few years at both ends of the scale, small stalls in the side lanes, deluxe restaurants in the hotels. 'Hong Kong Food City' slots rather more into the latter category. It is an opulent multi-storey complex of restaurants for the better-heeled among Beijing's citizens.



Following the trend in many other countries of the world, the two-hour lunch break (and nap) is slowly being phased out in Beijing. It used to be difficult to find anywhere to eat in the city centre. Canteens cater for workers, but where do visitors in from the country eat? Private entrepreneurs are now setting up fast-food operations, Chinese style.



The underlying Chinese love for gambling is re-appearing, even in the capital. Lotteries are all the rage. The winner of this one, run from a mini-van, will be able to take the bicycle home at once - a potent attraction. A ticket is inexpensive and, not surprisingly, there are plenty of takers.



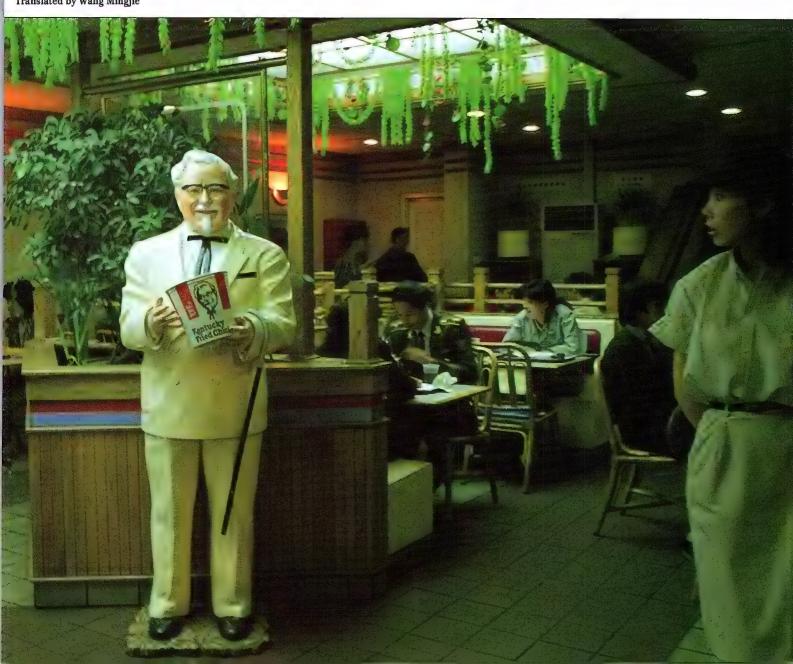
In old Beijing there were rickshaws, then cycle-rickshaws, but they gradually disappeared from the streets in the fifties. Nowadays, public transport is readily available, but it is crowded. So some ingenious Beijingers have brought out their old tricycles and polished them up to offer them as tourist transport.

Business is said to be flourishing.



Who would have believed it? Colonel Sanders at home in Beijing! For Beijingers this is still an innovation, a place to dress up, to try 'Kentucky Fried Chicken' and — most important for the younger crowd — to see and be seen. In today's Beijing, American-style fast food is equated with a modern lifestyle.

Translated by Wang Mingjie



Beijing SPECIAL

Classic Beauty Beyond Compare -



he Palace Museum, known to the outside world as the Forbidden City but to the Chinese themselves simply as Gugong (Old Palace), was the Imperial Palace of the Ming and Qing dynasties. Within its seven-metre-high outer ramparts, the rectangular enclosure is laid out according to the points of the compass with the state entrance to the south. It covers an area of 720,000 square metres with 500,000 square metres of buildings: several hundred halls of approximately nine thousand rooms in which are stored countless national treasures. This stupendous complex, its architecture and all its details embody the boundless power of dynastic rule.

Started in 1420 under the Ming emperor Zhudi (1403–1424), it was in many ways truly a city. It is recorded that, in 1425, there were 6,300 cooks making meals for an estimated 10,000 to 15,000 people a day. By 1644, at the decadent end of the Ming dynasty, some 70,000 eunuchs were employed within its confines, the only male attendants allowed to live in the complex. Incidentally, there were still 3,000 eunuchs

The Palace Museum

PHOTOS BY LAM KIN FAI ARTICLE BY ZHONG WEIZHI



The Wumen Gate at dawn from inside the complex (1, by Hu Chui). An aerial view shows the grand scheme of the Forbidden City (2, photo supplied by Wang Wenbo). A neglected corner (3) contrasts with the cool elegance of the marble balustrades so frequently encountered (4).





in residence at the time of the 1911 Revolution.

This immense monument to the past is certainly worth much more than a single visit. Its symmetry, the use of colour, the contrast between the wide-open expanses of the outer courtyards and their lofty halls and the more claustrophobic atmosphere of the western and eastern quarters, which give the impression of being 'boxes within boxes'.... It takes time to appreciate this fully.

The Outer Palace

Once through the Tian'anmen Gate and the Duanmen Gate, you arrive at the Wumen (Meridian) Gate, the principal ceremonial entrance to the Forbidden City and the highest building in the complex. Much more than a gate, it is like a fortress with a watch-tower at every corner. Like Tian'anmen it is built of massive bricks painted red and radiates an air of overwhelming majesty.

Passing through it (which takes you across the moat), you come to the inner loop of Jinshui (Golden Water) with its five Dengji (Hierarchy) Bridges. These white marble bridges with their carved balustrades create a rhythmic pattern varied only by the coiled dragon motifs which top the balustrades of the Yudao Bridge, the central bridge which was reserved for the emperor's use.

I went through Xiehe (Harmony) Gate in the direction of the Donghua (East Flowery) Gate, one of the side entrances, through which civil officials entered. Army officers used to pass in and out through the Xihua (West Flowery) Gate on the western side of the complex. The courtyard near the Xiehe







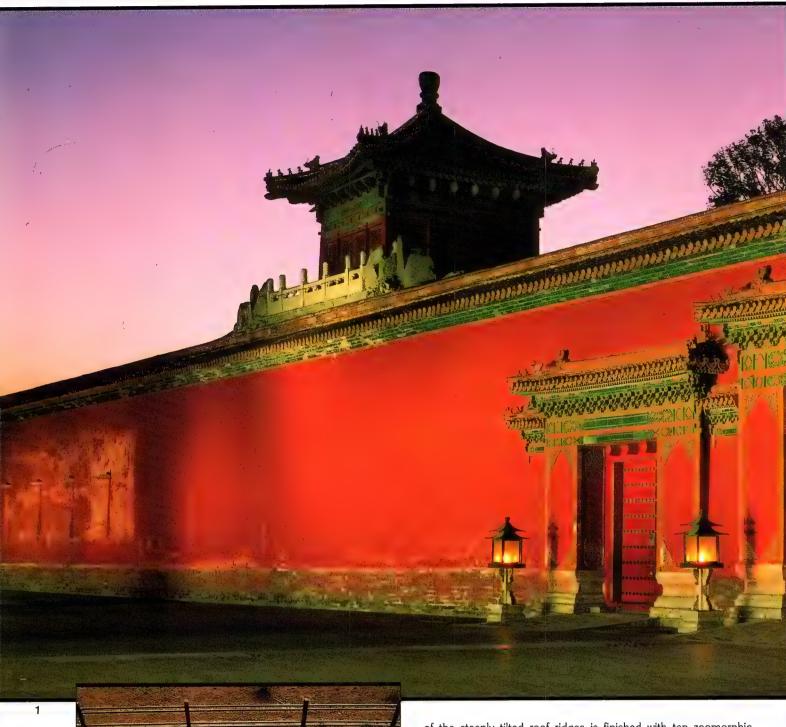
Gate was deserted and had obviously seen better days. The walls were faded, the flagstones worn, and weeds and wild flowers had long since taken root.

The seemingly unimportant buildings here were the offices of the emperor's cabinet during the Ming dynasty. As the emperor gave infrequent audiences, responsibility for the affairs of state fell on the shoulders of the senior officials who were posted here on a rota system. With the shrinking power of the cabinet during the Qing dynasty, these buildings were progressively neglected, becoming the imperial archives.

Back on the central route, you approach the Taihe (Supreme Harmony) Gate, a huge open porch supported on red lacquered pillars, where Shunzhi, the first emperor of the Qing, was enthroned in 1644. Behind lies an immense courtyard of more than 30,000 square metres, above which rises Taihe Hall. This is one of the three most important structures in the Forbidden City. It is also one of the largest wooden structures in the whole of China. The venue for imperial coronations, birthdays, weddings and similarly crucial ceremonies under both the Ming and Qing, everything about it emphasizes its supreme status. You approach it up five flights of steps, passing gilt bronze vats and incenseburners. The hall stands on the high marble terrace called the 'Dragon Pavement' and is just over thirty-five metres high. Each

Details of the dragons on the imperial throne (1) and on the doors of Taihe Hall (5). The bronze lion at Taihe Gate suckles her cub through her paw (2) (2 and 5 by Chan Yat Nin). Binoculars (3) are not essential accessories to penetrate the mysteries of the past (4)!

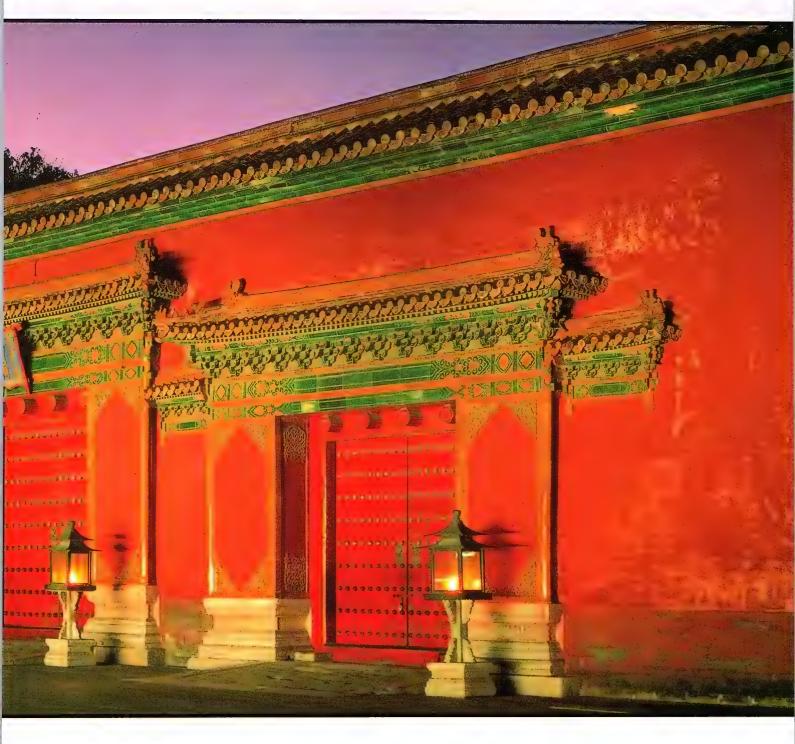




of the steeply tilted roof ridges is finished with ten zoomorphic figures, highly unusual, as elsewhere these figures appear in uneven numbers from five to eleven. The doors on either side of the main portal are encrusted with bas-reliefs of gold dragons which, together with the red pillars and beams, give an impression of classic beauty.

The interior decoration is as sumptuous as the exterior. The doors and windows all glisten with gold, and the throne and its dais in the centre are perforated, engraved and gilded. The caisson ceiling directly above the throne is covered with golden dragons with, in the centre, a coiled dragon holding a precious pearl in its mouth.

The next two halls are also on the 'Dragon Pavement'. Zhonghe (Middle Harmony) Hall is square; here the emperor used to inspect the implements prepared for his ritual ploughing at the Temple of Agriculture (directly west of Tiantan) every spring, and bless the harvest every autumn. The third of the throne halls, Baohe (Preserving Harmony) Hall, was where the



The Shunzhen Gate (1, by Hu Chui). A mosaic path in the Imperial Garden (2). Visitors explore every nook and cranny of the more homely western courtyards (3 and 4).





emperor received vassal princes and envoys, including Western ambassadors in Qing times.

Still heading north, you descend a flight of steps alongside the most exquisite white marble ramp carved with dragon and cloud motifs, the longest and largest in the complex, leading down off the Dragon Pavement into Qianqing (Heavenly Purity) Square. This square, just outside the inner palace, served as the site of imperial audiences during the early years of the Qing dynasty. Exhausted tourists usually rest here for a while after visiting the three main halls – after all, at this point they have covered over two-thirds of the distance between Tian'anmen and Shenwumen, the north gate!

The Inner Palace

Beyond Qianqing Gate lies the residential area proper of the emperor, his consorts and concubines, which even high officials could not enter without express imperial permission. Laid out along the central axis are three halls mimicking the layout and the style of the large halls in the outer palace. The first is Qianqing Hall, the home of the emperor up until the Kangxi reign (1662–1722). Most interesting of the objects inside this hall is the throne. Its back is carved all over with intertwining dragons and the screen behind has an intricate gold relief carving. The effect is to underline the overwhelming majesty of the 'dragon throne' and its imperial occupant.





Qianqing Hall and the succeeding Jiaotai (Vigorous Fertility) Hall and Kunning (Earthly Tranquillity) Hall have names of symbolic significance.

'Kunning' means the combination of heaven and earth or, in another sense, the mingling of *yin* and *yang*, female and male. This hall was the empress' residence during the Ming dynasty, but the Qing empresses seldom lived here, although it remained nominally their official residence. The Dongnuan (East Warm) Pavilion, in particular, was used as the bridal chamber for Qing emperors and empresses.

You cannot at present enter Kunning Hall but, from what I could see through the windows, it has the intricate dragon and phoenix carvings customary of most of the imperial palaces. I could also make out a huge red wall, screens and hanging lanterns inscribed with the Chinese characters meaning 'double happiness'. Poor Puyi, the last Qing emperor (reign dates 1908–1911), was so intimidated by all the red that he reportedly left his new wife there on his wedding night in 1922 and fled to his usual quarters.

Continuing through the Kunning Gate you reach Yuhuayuan,

Changchun Hall's mural on the theme of A Dream of Red Mansions (1). Chuxiu Hall, residence of the Empress Dowager Cixi (2, by Hu Chui), and Puyi's personal belongings in Yongshou Hall (3, by Lan Po).







the Imperial Garden, small but exquisite. Part of the ground is laid with an elegant pebble mosaic path depicting figures, floral designs and scenes from the classic novel *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*.

I exited through the Shunzhen Gate to reach the northernmost gate, Shenwu (Spiritual Valour) Gate, from where if I had wished I could have continued up to Jingshan (Coal Hill) for the best of vantage points over the Imperial City.

The Palaces to West and East

Although I had now traversed the complete length of the Forbidden City from south to north, I wasn't finished yet. I left the Imperial Garden through Qiongyuan Gate on its western side, entering the long corridor lined with red walls which separates the western quarters from the inner court mentioned above. This western area was the abode of the empresses and concubines, and it is one of the most rewarding places in the whole complex for the visitor to wander in. The individual low buildings are linked by zigzagging corridors and built around





courtyards, producing a secluded yet homely atmosphere. Unlike the great halls, magnificent yet lonely on their marble terraces, it is easy to imagine real flesh-and-blood people living here.

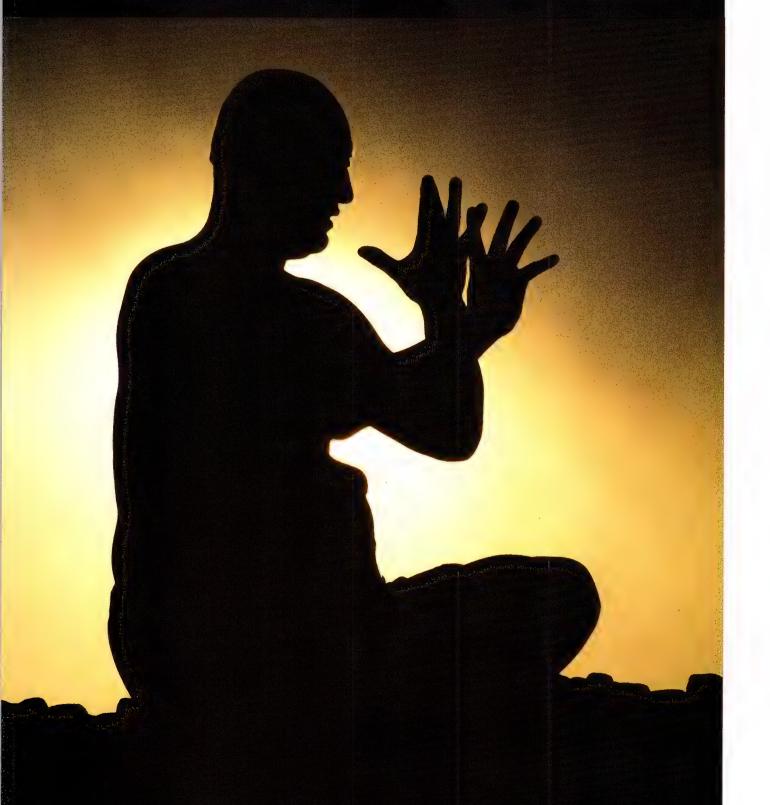
Of the six western halls which are open to visitors, Chuxiu (Concentrated Beauty) is perhaps the most interesting since this was the home of the formidable Empress Dowager Cixi for ten years from 1884 to 1893. This hall has been maintained in more or less the same condition as after the Empress Dowager spent 630,000 taels (31,500 kilos) of silver on its redecoration for the occasion of her fiftieth birthday. The carved and perforated partitions in the second room to the east and in the inner room are mahogany, while much of the furniture is sandalwood or (Continued on page 101)

A corner of the Imperial Garden (1) and a detail of the typical 'boxes within boxes' layout of the residential quarters (4, by Lan Po). Grace notes: the bronze crane incense-burner at Yangxin Hall (3), one of the palace's many solid doors with bronze studs (2), and an ancient sundial (5).

Beijing SPECIAL

The Qigong Craze Continues

PHOTOS BY LAN BO ARTICLE BY ZI YIN





he Chinese system of deep-breathing exercises, gigong, has a history of at least three to four thousand years. In the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Period (770-221 B.C.), the Taoist philosopher Laozi suggested a method of health preservation by regulating respiration. His contemporary, Zhuangzi, said: 'Inhaling and exhaling helps to rid one of the stale and take in the fresh.' It is mentioned in many classics of medical literature. In A Study of the Eight Extra Channels, Li Shizhen (1518-1593), a famous physician of the Ming dynasty, stated that changes in the channels and collaterals could be perceived by noting the physiological reactions during quiescent qigong.

One of the basic principles of traditional Chinese medicine is that there are a number of energy paths or meridians running through the human body. These connect up the major organs and act as a circulatory system for qi, a term usually translated as 'vital energy'. This principle is behind the more familiar forms of Chinese therapy such as acupuncture and its needle-less version, acupressure, as well as qigong, which is a blanket name for many types of exercises, both mental and physical.

Chinese scientists have found that *qi* emissions are a sort of radiation field, a mixture of infrared and magnetic radiation, electrostatic charges and other elements. It has also been established through scientific experiments that the places on the human body where the emission of these energies are strongest are close to the acupunture points.

increase their flow of *qi*, thereby strengthening the constitution and preventing the formation of imbalances or congestion and thus of disease. There are said to be over fifty million *qigong* practitioners in China.

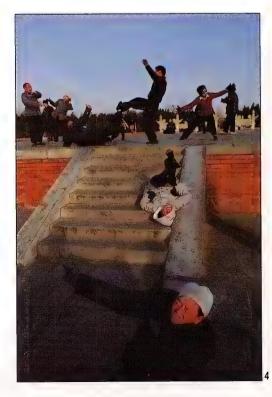
However, there are certain people

However, there are certain people blessed with very strong innate qi who are able to pass it on to others. Top aigong masters enjoy something like the adulation reserved for popstars elsewhere. The government - always intent on 'eradicating superstition' - has expressed alarm at the mass hysteria exhibited by disciples of certain overly mystic teachers (who may draw audiences of many thousands at a time) and is endeavouring to introduce a formal licensing system for qigong teachers, to weed out the charlatans and regulate the medical applications of qigong. It is true that research has shown that gigong practices which provoke biological. physiological and psychological changes can affect the mental state of those who perform them obsessively, leading to hallucinations and other disorders.

Meditation is a form of quiescent qigong (1 and 3) (3 by Chan Yat Nin). More dynamic qigong exercises, if allowed free rein, can develop into unbridled – even contortionist – activity (2 and 4).

The medical uses of gigong are only just beginning to be fully explored on the international level, but many physicians with experience in this field believe that it has tremendous potential, especially as therapy for diseases caused by environmental pollution and the breakdown of the body's immune system defences, where modern Western medicine is often ineffective. Qigong is said to boost the ability to fight disease by bringing body and mind into close cooperation. It is claimed to be effective in cases of hypertension, Parkinson's disease, anaemia, asthma, emphysema, diabetes, and certain forms of tumours and cancers. But, on the more popular level, it is greatly appreciated as a form of health care for the elderly, as a way to lose weight, and as a method for improving the general appearance.

Everybody can practise gigong to



There are two major divisions of qigong: neigong (internal exercise) and waigong (external exercise). Neigong emphasizes the training of the body's internal functions, and generally includes all exercise featuring a state of quiescence, such as meditation. Waigong emphasizes the external functions through movement, although some exercises also have an effect on the internal organs; one discipline within this category is taijiquan (shadowboxing). A combination of quiescent and dynamic exercise is generally recommended.

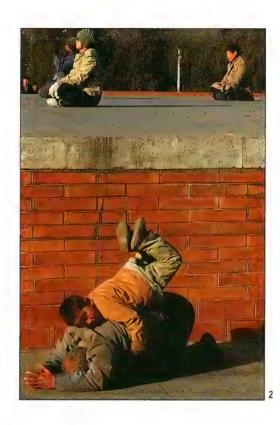
Qigong can be carried out with the practitioner in a recumbent position, sitting – with or without back support and with or without crossed legs, standing, or in movement, depending on personal preference, type of exercise and state of physical health.

Despite the diversity of *qigong* practices, the general principle is the same. Mind and respiration must be coordinated in order to achieve perfect integration of mind and *qi* to guide the *qi* flow. A state of quiescence or inward quietude is a prerequisite. One way of achieving this is to focus the mind on a certain point of the body or on nearby objects, concentrate on listening to one's breathing, or silently repeat words or phrases (like a mantra), while remaining relaxed physically and mentally.

It is fascinating to speculate on a possible connection between *qigong* and Indian yogic practices and doctrines. It does seem, for example, that one can equate *qi* and *prana*.

In Chinese meditation, as part of qigong, the points on which the





mind is primarily focused correspond to 'acupoints' – points used in acupuncture and acupressure. There are more than 600 on the human body. The usual point is the 'middle dantian', a point located behind the navel. The 'lower dantian' is the Guanyuan acupoint, about ten centimetres below the navel.

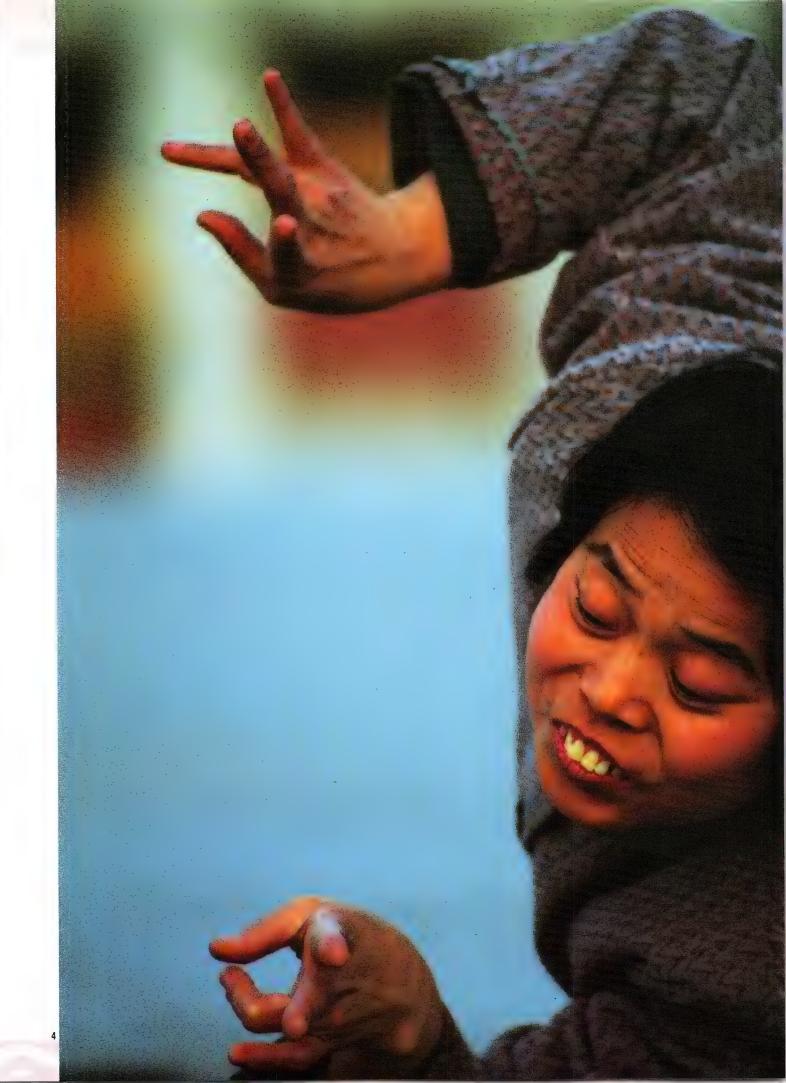
At a certain stage, long-term practitioners say, the internal qi takes over. Its movement is said to be the cause of some of the more extreme physical contortions in those who allow its free flow. Many swear that they can feel the qi moving within them, often in the form of warmth or tingling.

Beijing's parks are favourite places to practise gigong. The Fangze Altar in Ditan Park, the one-time Temple of Earth, built in 1530, is particularly popular since it is reasoned that this site selected especially by the emperors for some of their most sacred rites must offer the optimum conditions and contain the best of the substances under heaven which go to make up the earth. As the air is thought to be at its purest and most beneficial in the early morning, that is the best time to observe qigong exponents in action.

Translated by Anne Yan

Qigong in summer (1) and winter (2), the qi expressing itself in a silent, anguished scream (3) or in a sort of ecstasy (4).





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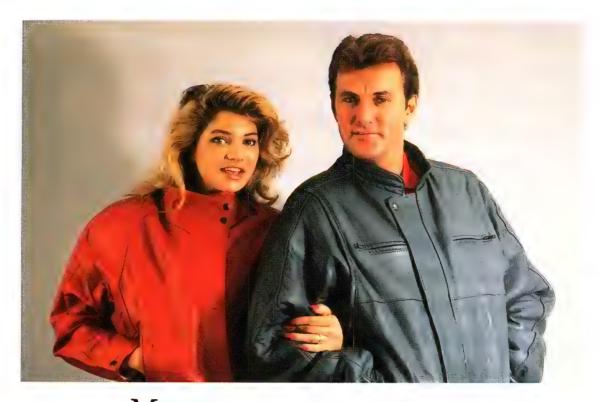
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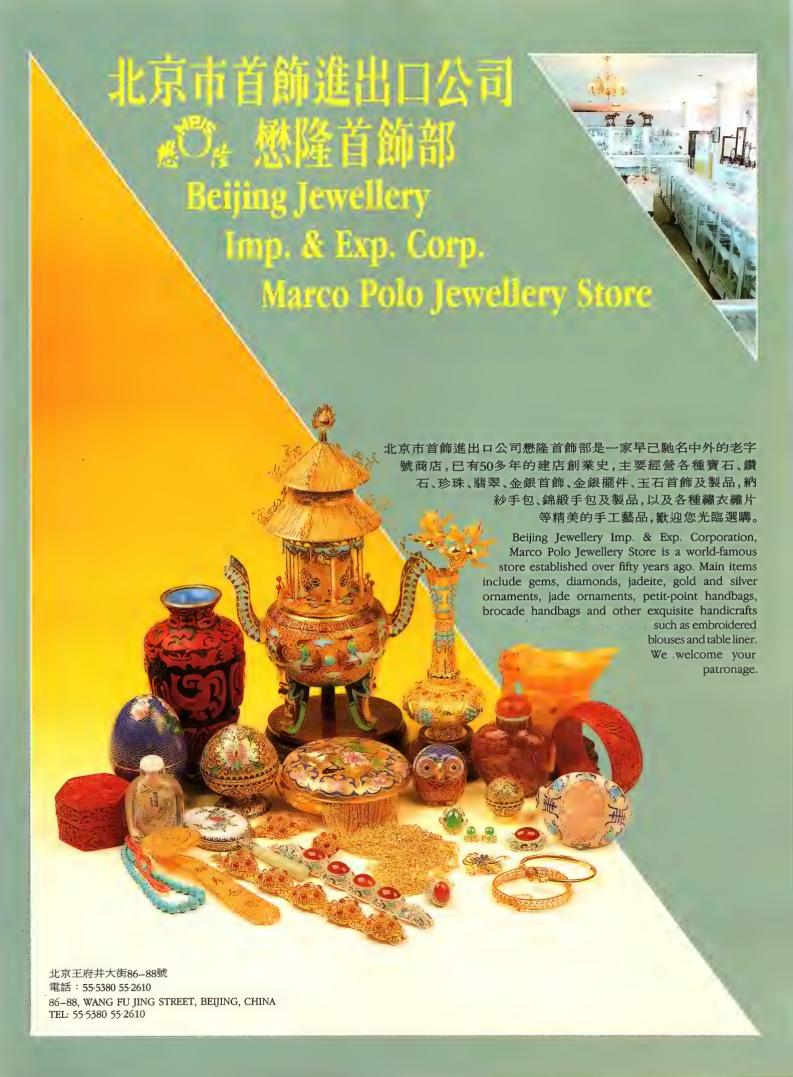


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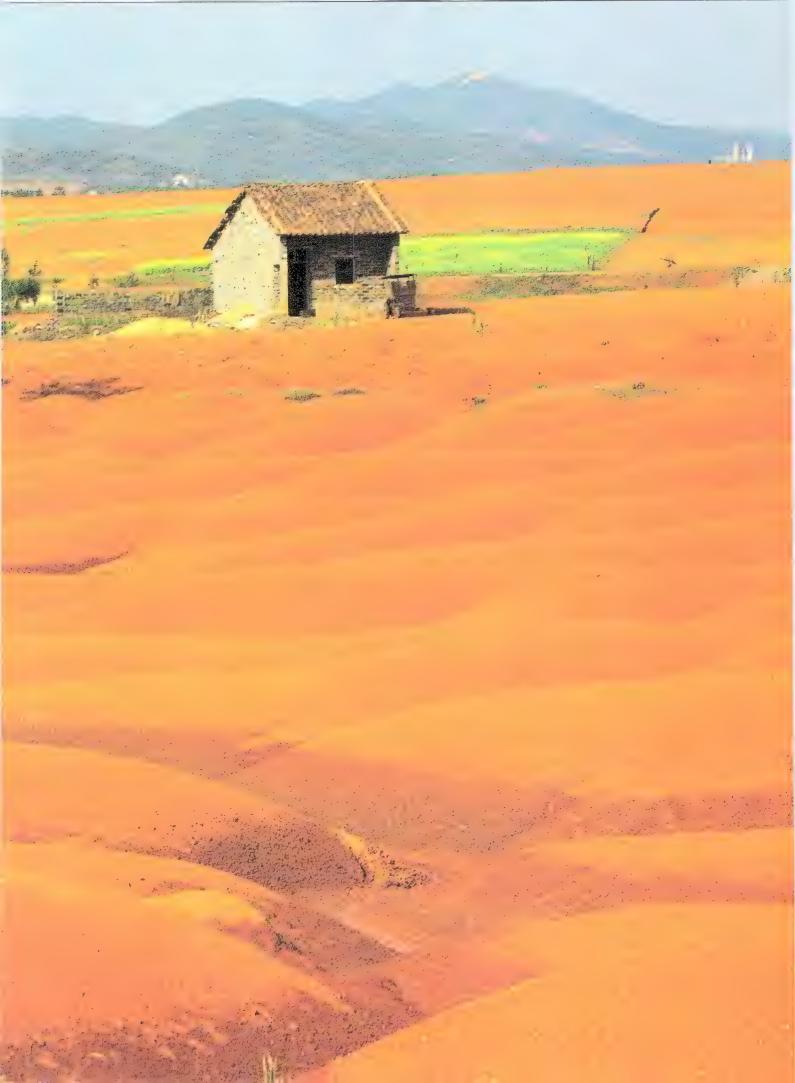
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西



THE RED LAND

PHOTOS BY GUO JIASHENG TEXT BY BIAN JI

Jiangxi's dazzling red earth requires a great deal of hard work to turn it into cultivable land The walls of this quarry present a study in angles, sliced with precision as though by a scalpel (by Liu Jiangyuan)

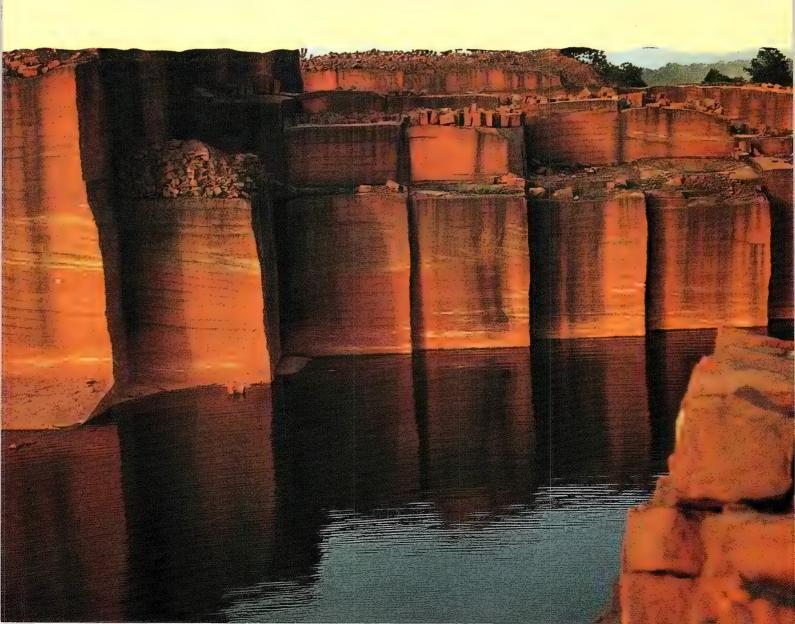
Province enjoys a warm, even hot, climate while the spring monsoons from the southeast bring abundant rain to the province. Under these conditions of high temperatures and high humidity, the earth's crust breaks up rapidly, permitting the release and distribution of minerals. Over the millennia, red soil has formed here — soil with exceptional features, but also disadvantages for the farmer.

Red earth is found in many parts of the world. In China, it is distributed mainly south of the River Yangtse, and accounts for around twenty-one percent of China's total land surface.

In southern China, therefore, red earth is

important, and particularly for Jiangxi which has one of the largest areas of this colourful but heavy soil. In fact, seventy percent of Jiangxi's surface area is covered with red earth at altitudes of from twenty to around eight hundred metres above sea-level. The formations and features of Jiangxi's soil are typical of this climatic zone in southern China. The natural vegetation is predominantly evergreen broadleaf forest.

The red soil is thick and on the sticky side — in other words, clay-like — with a high degree of acidity. In addition, only three to five percent of the topsoil consists of organic substances. This red earth is apt to be washed away or to dry out, and it is not easy to cultivate. However, it has proved



suitable for growing many plants and crops such as tea, tea-oil, citrus and other fruits, tung-oil and bamboo.

Red Hills, Red Basins

Nearly half of Jiangxi is covered by low hills with an average altitude of one hundred to three hundred metres above sea-level. This vast area stretches between the mountains which form the provincial borders — the Luoxiao Range to the west, the Wuyi Range to the east — and up north into the plain around Lake Poyang.

The valleys, nearly all river valleys, are known as 'red basins' because of their colour and their soil, although strips of alluvial soil have been deposited along the rivers.

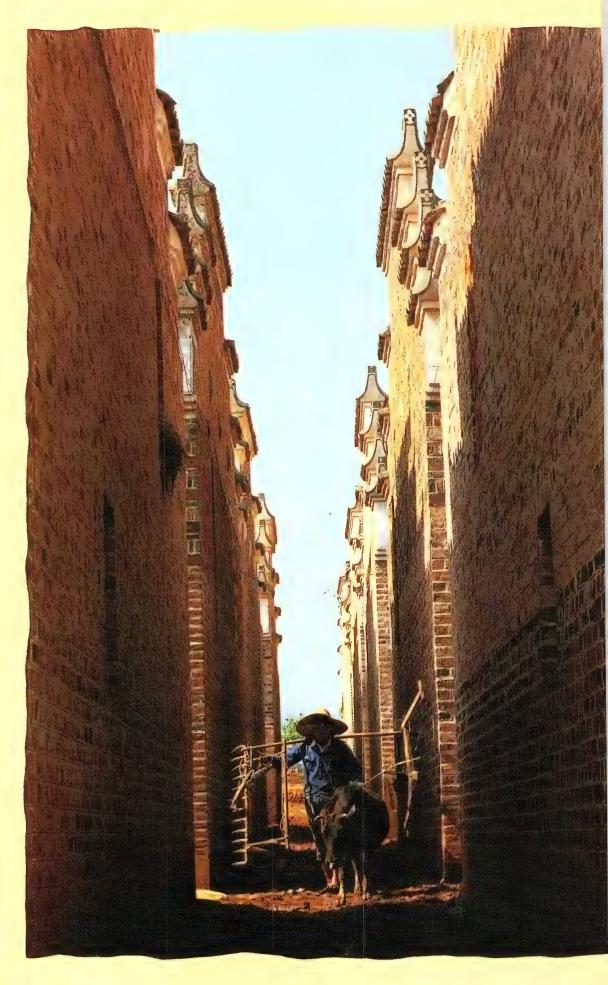
The valley slopes are gentle (rarely exceeding an angle of ten degrees) and their topsoil is thick. The cultivated soil layer is as much as eighty centimetres to one metre thick, and even thicker in places.

Owing to the fact that Jiangxi's basins tend to be densely populated and that the irrigation systems are efficient, most of the red soil there has been turned into cultivated land. It is estimated that ten years of hard work is necessary to turn this acid soil into good, productive earth. It is said that half of Jiangxi's paddy fields have been wrested from the red earth by the unremitting toil of the local farming families.

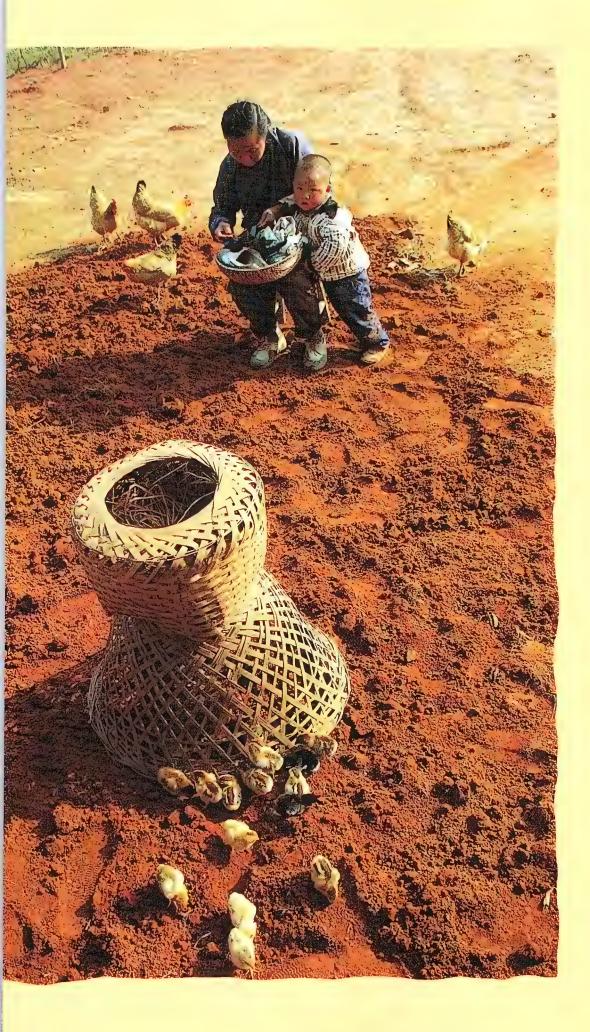
Translated by Chen Jiaji

Despite the generally warm climate, it does occasionally snow in northern Jiangxi in winter — with dramatic results (by Yan Jianhua)

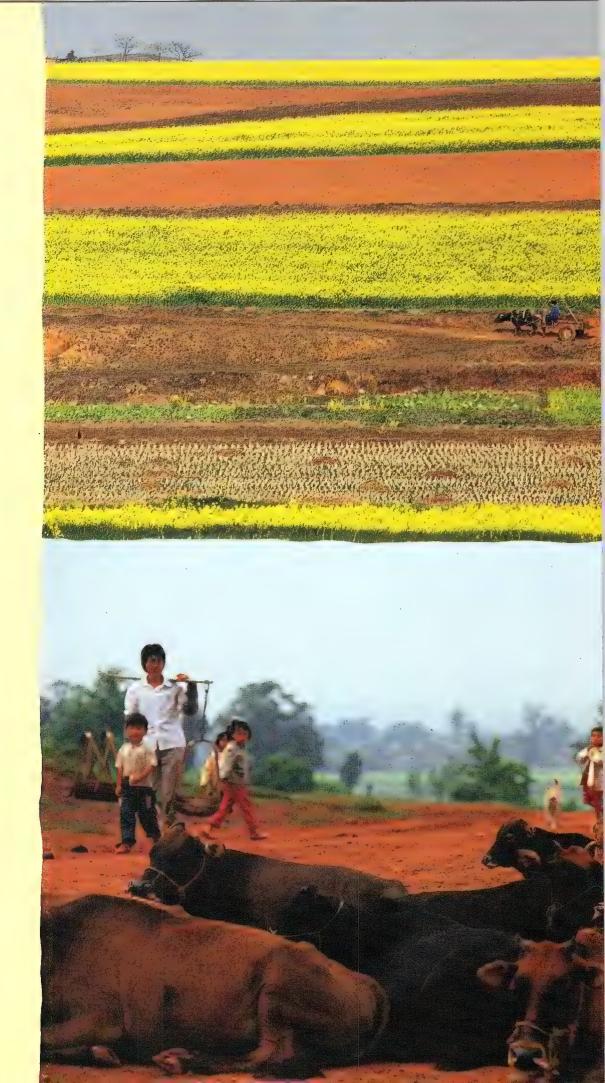




Tone on tone ... red bricks, red stones, red earth. The graceful high gables of traditional architecture can still be seen in rural communities.

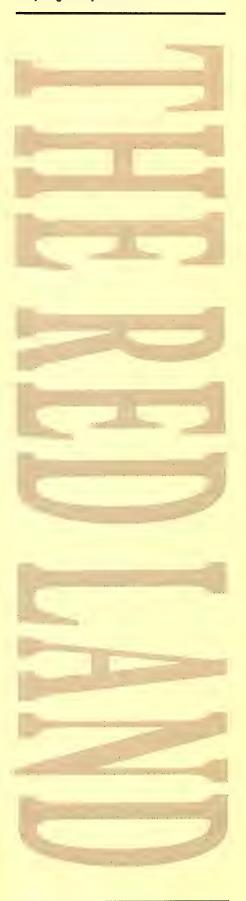


Like the people, domestic livestock and poultry thrive on this red land of Jiangxi





Spring bands the red with brilliant yellows and greens, the lighter red showing where the plough has passed



Strange how even the cattle manage to harmonize and merge with the earth tones!

To Ulan-Ude, Home of the



Mongolian herdswomen in Manzhouli on a shopping trip (by Ma Yiu Chun)



he Trans-Siberian Railway is a popular and relatively inexpensive method of travelling between

Buryats ARTICLE BY XIAO MU



Each turn of the prayer-wheel confers merit, according to Tibetan Buddhism (by Stephen Wong)

Asia and Europe — a once-in-a-lifetime experience of which many dream.

But few people have the opportunity to actually get off and explore *en route*.



International train no. 19 leaves Beijing Railway Station every Saturday. Exiting from northeastern China at Manzhouli in Inner Mongolia, it enters the Soviet Union, crossing the vast expanses of Siberia on its way to Moscow. Following the popular trend, I too took this train, but my destination was not distant Moscow, but Ulan-Ude, declared open to foreigners only in 1989.

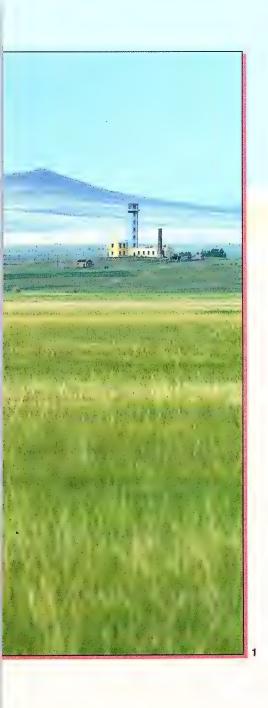
All the lands between Manzhouli and Ulan-Ude were the territory of the Xiongnu (Huns) during the Western Han dynasty (206 B.C.–A.D. 24). Now they belong variously to the Soviet Union, China and the People's Republic of Mongolia.

Since the late Qing dynasty (1644–1911) Manzhouli has been a border crossing point. It was not a permissible stop for tourists until 1985 and then only for domestic tourists and Chinese compatriots from Hong Kong and Macau. Non-Chinese tourists had to apply for special permission if they wished to leave the railway station there.

The station at Manzhouli bustles with activity when one of the international trains is in, but the town itself has a very laid-back air. Its layout is simple — it only has nine streets. Manzhouli's main street is called Zhong Su Jie (Sino-Soviet Street) and contains shops, restaurants, bank, post office and other essential government services. The houses are almost all of wood with sloping roofs. Their eaves and window frames are finely carved and painted orange, green and blue in a somehow Russian style. I was told that some of them had indeed been built by Russians who were very active in the area around the turn of the century. Following the Sino-Russian Treaty of 1896, they constructed the Trans-Manchurian Railway — the former Chinese Eastern Railway — which passed through Manzhouli on its way via Harbin to the eastern port city of Vladivostok on the Pacific Ocean; it was completed in 1904.

Located in the western part of the Hulun Buir Grassland, Manzhouli forms a compact community in the middle of the green immensity. On the streets you pass mostly Han Chinese people working here and their families, but I did come across Mongolians clad in traditional costume. Talking with them, I found most of them could speak Mandarin. They told me that many Mongolian herdsmen live in the vicinity, only coming to town to purchase necessities. They prefer to live out on the grasslands surrounded by their great mixed herds of cattle, sheep and horses (see CHINA TOURISM no. 83).

Having completed the border formalities at Manzhouli, I boarded my train again. The border post between China and the Soviet Union flashed by the windows. Not long afterwards, buildings appeared up ahead. We were approaching Zabaykalsk, the Soviet border town some ten kilometres from Manzhouli. We stopped for two hours at the railway station here because, since the gauge of the rails in Soviet territory is





The sweep of grassland encompasses, to the left, the Soviet Union, to the right, China (1). A row of Manzhouli shops (3) said to have been built by Russians early this century, and the sign for 'Sino-Soviet Street' (2) (all by Ma Yiu Chun).

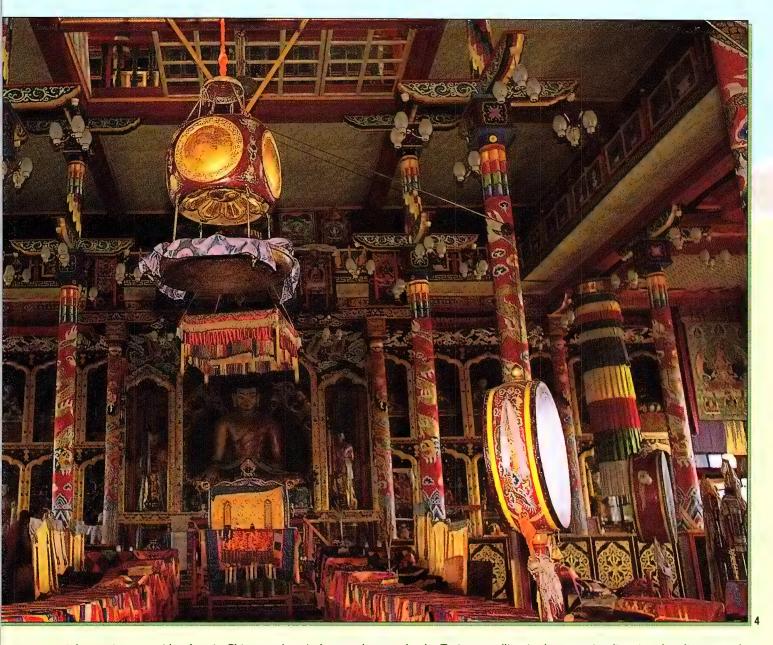








The station building at Zabaykalsk (1, by Peter Cheng). Ulan-Ude's wooden lamaseries are different yet similar to those elsewhere: stupas preserving lamas' ashes (2), bronze roof ornaments with symbolic meaning (3), and ornate interior (4) (2-4 by Stephen Wong).



seven or eight centimetres wider than in China, each train has to change wheels. Trains travelling in the opposite direction, heading towards Beijing, change their wheels at Manzhouli.

A ten-hour journey, rocked and lulled by the rhythm of the wheels on the rails, followed. The train passed through dense conifer forests: we seemed lost in a vast expanse of greenish-grey. At some stage here we joined the Trans-Siberian line. Next stop was Chita, but nobody was allowed to leave the train since it lies in a closed military zone. But it is a refuelling stop for the Trans-Siberian trains, so we managed to catch a few glimpses of this mysterious place from the train windows. Chita is said to derive its name from the Turco-Mongolian Khitan people, who ruled the region in the tenth century and founded the Liao dynasty (907–1125).

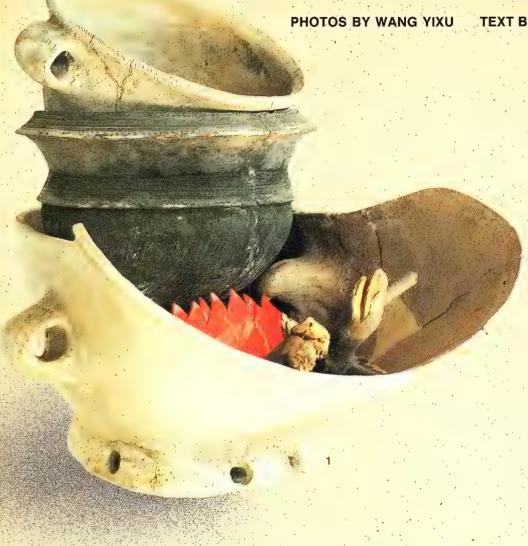
Four hours after leaving Chita, we pulled into the station at Ulan-Ude. Founded in 1666 as the winter quarters of Cossack troops, this city with a population of 380,000 in an area of 170 square kilometres is the capital of the Buryat Autonomous Republic, established in 1958. Apart from people of Russian type, therefore, you also see many people with Mongoloid features: flat faces, high cheekbones and narrow eyes. In fact, they are Buryats, a branch of the Mongolian race, and account for around thirty percent of the population.

The Buryats are the original inhabitants of the region, and in the past led a nomadic or semi-settled life. Numbering about 400,000, they are scattered across the Soviet Union, China and Mongolia. Nowadays, those living in Ulan-Ude are mainly employed as factory workers. Their history and traditional lifestyle is explained and depicted in the National Museum in the city centre, as well as in an open-air museum fifteen kilometres to the north. This latter also contains replicas of the Buryats' tents, which are rather like the wigwams of North American Indians, with high, pointed roofs. Cooking utensils, fishing implements and canoes are scattered around outside, and there are shelters for livestock, so that you feel you are in a real Buryat camp of old.

The open-air museum also has some Tibetan Buddhist monasteries, since the Buryats — like many Mongolians — are followers of that religion. You also see such buildings in and around Ulan-Ude. The largest monastery, built only two years before my visit, is located some thirty kilometres to the south. Its most unusual feature, to my eyes, was that it was made of wooden planks. Entering its main hall, I saw designs in gold and colourful murals, quite magnificent. At the centre of the hall sits a statue of Sakyamuni. Devotees were turning a huge prayer-wheel, one turn signifying a complete reading of the Buddhist scripture.

It was a fascinating experience for me to see how history has left its mark on this region, with its very similar ethnic background on both sides of the border.





eparting from the South Station at Ningbo in Zhejiang Province, we caught a westbound train to Yejia on the Ningbo-Shaoxiang Plain. From there a two-kilometre walk brought us to the site of an ancient Hemudu Village, the first of ten major archaeological finds in China during the last forty years.

The Yaojiang River flows past the site, with the Siming Mountains towering up in the distance. Covering an area of 40,000 square metres, the site consists of four stratified deposits. In winter 1973 and again in winter 1977, Chinese archaeological teams excavated the fourth stratum, site of a culture which existed 6,960 years ago. About 6,000 artefacts were unearthed, together with traces of rice crops and tenons and mortises. This site contains the earliest cultural relics of

the Neolithic Age as discovered in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtse River along China's southeast coast. Finds included shards of pottery, bone ploughshares and sickles and the remains of large wooden houses, revealing that the primitive Chinese at Hemudu had long passed the cave-dwelling stage and no longer relied merely on hunting for their living.

The discovery of this site indicates that the Yangtse River Valley, like the Yellow River Valley, is a cradle of Chinese civilization, the Hemudu culture being one of the earliest known agricultural civilizations in the world.

The four pillars of Hemudu culture were rice crops, pile-dwelling, bone tools and pottery. During excavation, rice crops were found almost everywhere, preserved whole and

quite different from wild rice. Having been scientifically verified as existing 6,700-6,900 years ago, this makes it the earliest rice in the world, predating that found at the Nunuketa site in Thailand by several hundred years.



The pile-dwellings prove that Hemudu people knew how to construct houses almost 7,000 years ago. Decorative designs of leaves and plant stems were found in the wooden structures, forerunners of the elaborate carvings and designs on Chinese beams and pillars at a later date:

Large numbers of pottery wares were excavated, the most

representative being the multi-point-rimmed fu (cauldron) and zhao (stove). The cauldron was primitive man's most basic tool. Unearthed from the fourth stratified deposit, it was a crude pot, which was first rolled into a long clay strip before being coiled or linked from top to bottom to form the desired shape. The concave sections were filled with wet clay and the base was placed on level ground, covered with straw and subjected to a primitive firing process. Poorly made and containing large amounts of charcoal grain, the cauldron was easily broken. During excavation it was found to hold crusted grains of cooked rice.

A unique pottery stove 53cm x 30cm excavated from the third stratum (known to date from about 6,000 years ago) somewhat resembles a helmet in shape. It has a circular base and a large front opening. The interior has three supports on which the cauldron rests and the stove has two large ears for lifting. The central section is large enough to accommodate a fire and release the smoke, allowing the flame to be easily controlled. At the same time the air vent enables the stove to be used indoors to cater for large groups, thus signaling a major change in man's lifestyle and making cooking in the open air a thing of the past.

Besides the pottery, a broken bone eating utensil showing a two-headed bird was also found. The bird is a phoenix, standing with its heads turned inward towards the fireball it is carrying. It portrays a sunrise as recorded by the Hemudu people.

The 160 bone flutes unearthed perhaps best illustrate the lighter side of life among the Hemudu. Ten centimetres long and made from the limbs of fowl, they have two or three holes. Some flutes contain bone sticks in the cavities which move up and down when the flute is played, producing a variety of sounds and rhythms.

Translated by He Fei

A primitive stove with air vents (1) and a multi-point rimmed cauldron (2), both dating from nearly 7,000 years ago; bone flutes (3) and a bone eating utensil carved with a two-headed bird encircling the rising sun (4).





Longyun's Dragon-Headed Silkworm Lanterns PHOTOS & TEXT BY WEI RONGGUANG



t the time of the Lantern Festival, from the thirteenth to the fifteenth of first lunar month (generally in February), people all over China play with and admire lanterns or try to guess the riddles written on them. But for the villagers of Longyun in Xupu County, western Hunan, the Lantern Festival is devoted to lanterns of a unique type. These are known as 'silkworm lanterns', but in fact they have the head of a dragon and the body of a silkworm!

At dusk during the Lantern Festival, the villagers gather at their house doors, firecrackers in hand. Exploding firecrackers and the clash and boom of gongs and drums announce the entry into the village of four silkworm lanterns, two 'male', two 'female', following by a small silkworm lantern said to be their 'baby'. They advance, twisting and gyrating, their bodies lit internally by candles, to the rhythm of the music produced by suona (horn), drum and gong.

Each of the larger lanterns, nearly five metres long, is operated or supported by three men. It is based on a frame of thirty-six bamboo rings. Below the dragon's head, the body is covered with white cloth and decorated with red and green paper rings. The interior candles are attached firmly so that they stay in place even when the lantern is dancing.

As local custom requires, the lanterns first go the riverbank to 'drink water', symbolizing their prediction of good weather for the crops in the new year, then gather to perform the rite known as 'Silkworms Crossing the Bridge'. They climb up on to the wooden bridge, which is one and a half metres wide, and twine themselves around it, now with heads up and bodies down, now with tails high as the heads vanish from sight below the bridge. In this manner they cover the full twenty-six metres of the bridge's length.

This performance is something quite different from the acrobatics of the lion dance or the sheer splendour of the dragon dance. It seems charming and gentle by comparison. As the 'male' and 'female' lanterns dance along, they coordinate their movements, raising their heads together, or one turning to bite the other's tail as though in play, sometimes taking care of their 'baby'.

After the silkworm lanterns have made a ritual tour of the village, they reach an open space where they stage 'Two Silkworms Mounting the Terrace'. Three tables are set one on top of the other and several men take up position to hold the legs firm. Guided by a 'precious lamp', each couple of lanterns in turn mounts the terrace from left and right, vying to capture the lamp. Whichever finally gets it





is the victor. The fierce competition accompanied by deafening gongs and drums forms the climax of the festival night.

There is an interesting legend behind this strange lantern. The first part of the story is rather stereotyped, telling how the Jade Emperor (the ruler of heaven) sent the divine boy Yang Si to earth to kill a lawless, evil dragon. So far, so good. However, the story continues, the dragon's cut-off head begged Yang Si for its body back, promising to do good in compensation for its previous wrongs. Seeing its sincerity, Yang Si provisionally attached the dragon's head to a silkworm body and waited to see whether the dragon would behave itself. And it really did, bringing sufficient rain for the crops at the appropriate times and creating bumper harvests in the Longyun area year after year. After ten years, the dragon was pardoned and sent back as a divine being to live with the other dragons in the East Sea. However, it retained its silkworm body. In honour of the now benign dragon, the people of Longyun created this special dragon-headed silkworm lantern and commemorate the legend in their dance every year.

According to the experts, this kind of lantern is seen nowhere but in Longyun and only at the Lantern Festival. If you would like to see the silkworm lanterns in action, you should take the Hunan-Guizhou railway in the direction of Huaihua, alight at Xupu, then continue by bus to Longyun.

Translated by Gu Weizhou









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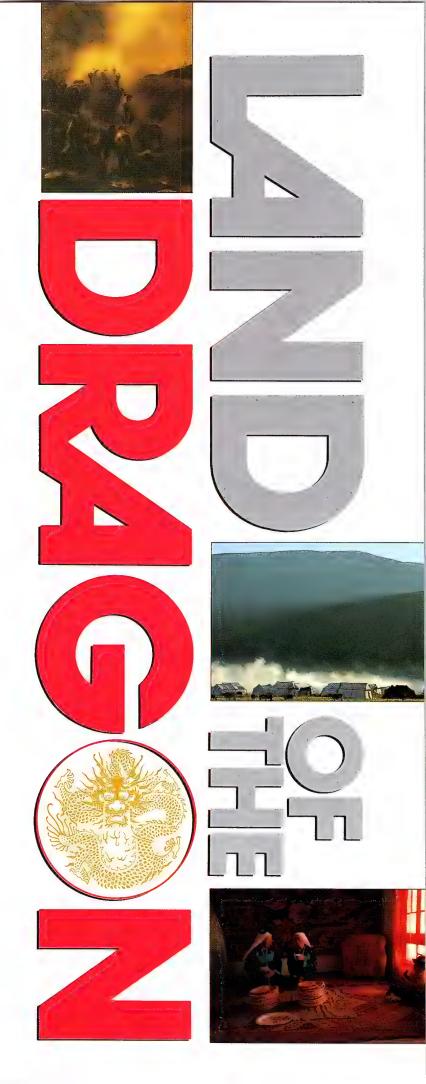
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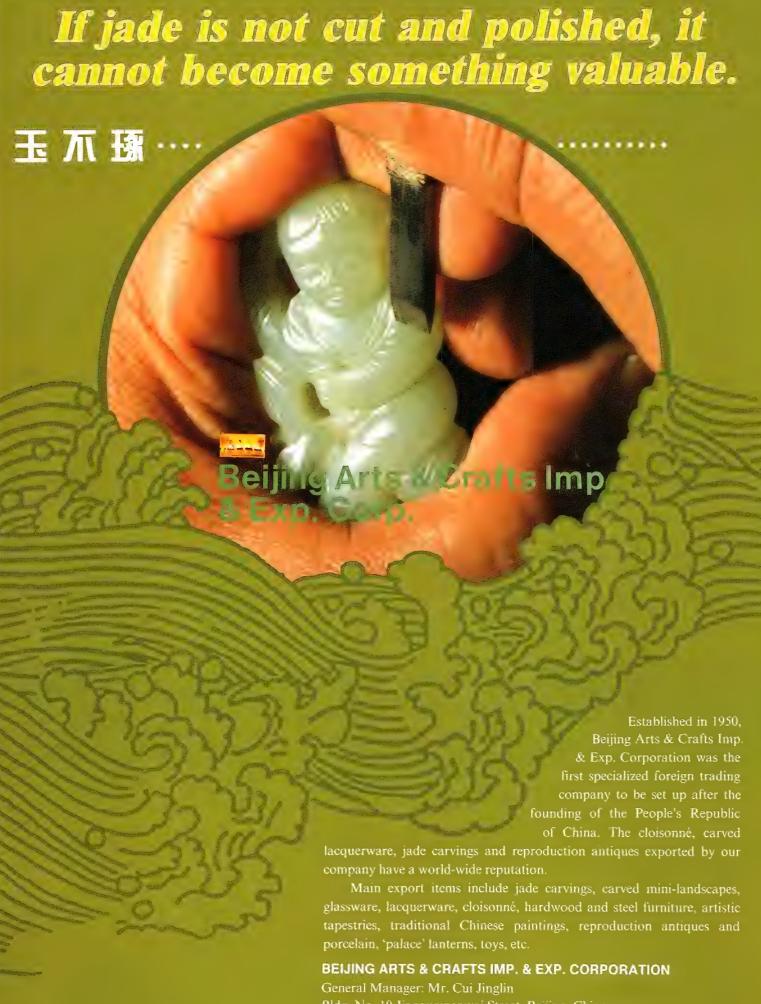
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General Manager: Mr. Cui Jinglin Bldg. No. 10 Jianguomenwai Street, Beijing, China Post Code: 100022 Tel: 500, 2488 Fax: 500, 1284 Cable: 0482 BEIJING hina Trading Service Co., Ltd is a joint venture between China Travel Service (Holding) Co. Ltd of Hong Kong, China National Textiles Import & Export Corp., Shanghai Silk Branch, and Shanghai Hua Jian Company.

The company provides all kinds of air, sea and land freight services for the import and export sector. It also acts as a representative on behalf of its clients and undertakes other

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Since its establishment, the company has developed rapidly thanks to cooperation with Chinese and foreign clients.

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Our company bases its activities on credit, quality, speed and efficiency, and enjoys a good reputation everywhere. We herewith express our hearty gratitute to all our clients for their support and hope to cooperate even more closely in future.





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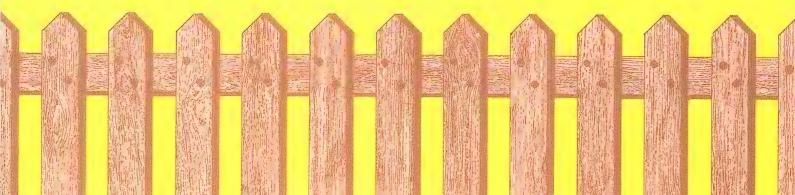
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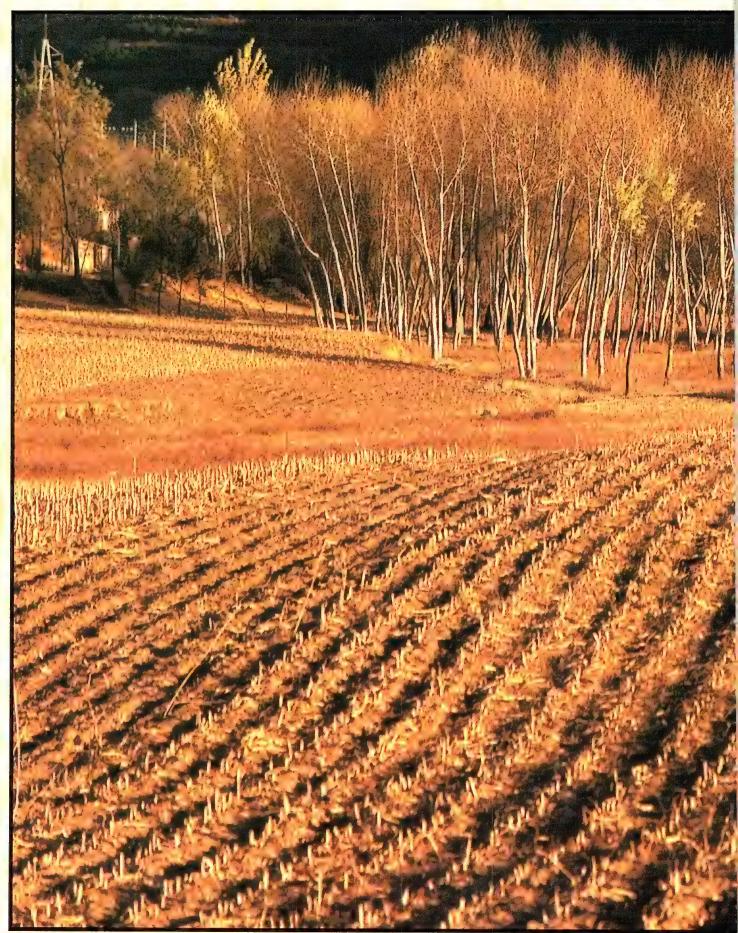
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Undertaking var ous kinds of flexible trade, mainly in foods,
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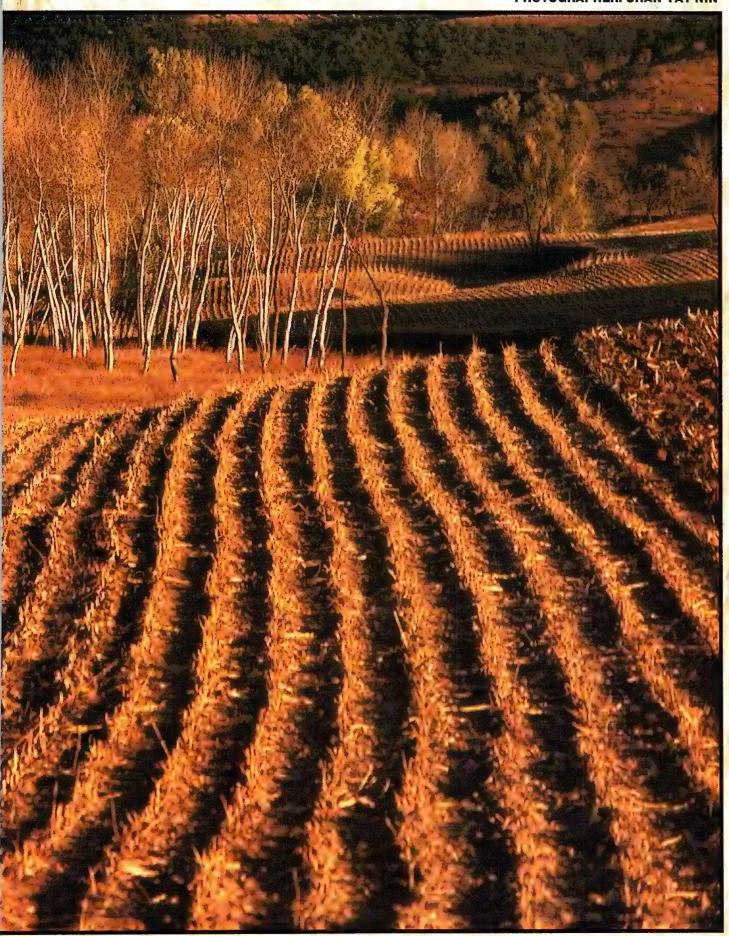
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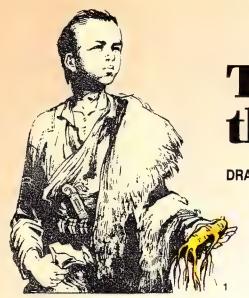


Fields newly shorn of their wheat ... graceful stands of silver birch ... soak up the golden sun of autumn in western Liaoning before the wind

PHOTOGRAPHER: CHAN YAT NIN



turns chill and the snows return.



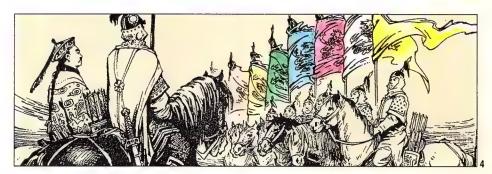
The Rise of the Manchus

DRAWINGS BY JING QIMING

- During the Ming dynasty (1368–1644), markets were established in the wild northeast to trade grain, seeds, salt, textiles, cooking utensils, etc., for ginseng, animal skins, horses and timber offered by the local Tungus tribespeople. Among the Nüzhen traders who frequented the market at Fushun (in present-day Liaoning) was the young Nurhachi. Born in 1559, he was a scion of the Aisin Gioro clan, which is said to have originated in Jilin's Changbai Mountains.
- 2. In his mid-twenties, tribal warfare resulted in the death of both his father and grandfather at the hand of Ming troops. Nurhachi started to strive for supremacy over the other Nüzhen tribes in 1583. He was reputed for his ferocity in battle, on one occasion routing forces ten times the size of his own, and had conquered all the surrounding tribes by 1589.
- In all, it took Nurhachi thirty years to unite the Nüzhen. In 1616, he adopted the title 'Khan' in Hetuala (present-day Xinbin in Liaoning) and named his territory Great Jin. Historians call it Later Jin to differentiate it from the Jin dynasty of 1115–1234 (also founded by Nüzhen tribes).
- 4. Over the years, Nurhachi instituted the so-called Eight Banner military system. A banner was initially a group of fighting men identified by a flag or banner of a different colour. Nurhachi was the supreme commander, leading two banners. The rest were commanded by his sons and nephews. Banners still exist today in Inner Mongolia in the form of the administrative units introduced by the Manchus during the Qing dynasty to bind the Mongolians under their rule.













 Another of Nurhachi's major innovations was the creation of a script for the language of the Nüzhen tribes — what we now know as the Manchu language. It was based on Mongolian, another in the Altaic family of languages.

6. In 1618, at the age of fifty-nine, Nurhachi launched an attack into Ming territory, capturing Fushun and various other places held by Ming troops. The fighting was fierce and continuous, and one Ming army was totally wiped out. In all, during this campaign against the Ming, Nurhachi seized more than seventy cities and towns.

 He and his forces swept westward like an irresistible tide, entering Shenyang in triumph. He made the city his new capital, building a magnificent palace there.

8. The heavily fortified Ningyuan (present-day Xingcheng in western Liaoning) on the coast, not far east of Shanhaiguan and the Great Wall, was next in 1626. However, the Nüzhen forces met their match in General Yuan Chonghuan who, despite his much smaller army, routed the attackers. Nurhachi himself was seriously wounded and died in Shenyang that same year.

Despite his death, the impetus of Nurhachi's achievements carried his descendants forward to further glory. His eighth son named this branch of the Nüzhen 'Manchu' and changed 'Jin' to 'Qing'. It was his son, Nurhachi's grandson, who ascended the imperial throne of China as the first emperor of the Qing dynasty (1644–1911).

Translated by M.K.

Taken from Vol. 8: The Qing Period from the 'Stories of Chinese People' series published by the Chongqing Bublishian Marsa







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HEILONGJIANG MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT IMPORT & EXPORT CORPORATION



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TEL: 225908, 225189 CABLE: 4425 HARBIN

RAVEL

The Palace Museum

Opening hours The complex is open every day, except in extraordinary circumstances. Summer: 8:30 am-5:30 pm. Winter: 8:30 am-4:30 pm.

Entrance fee Foreigners and Chinese resi-

dents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan pay ¥3 FEC. The ticket permits access to all currently open parts of the Palace Museum.

Highlights A visit to the Palace Museum can take two hours or several days, depending on your schedule, particular interests and fitness (!). The following are the major highlights:

- On the central axis: Wumen Gate, Taihe Gate, Taihe Hall, Zhonghe Hall, Baohe Hall, Qianqing Gate, Qianqing Hall, Jiaotai Hall, Kunning Hall, Imperial Garden, Shenwu Gate
- The western quarters: Chuxiu Hall, Changchun Hall, Yangxin Hall, Longzong Gate
- The eastern quarters: Huangji Hall, Mu-

seum of Paintings, Museum of Imperial Treasures, Qianlong Garden, Zhenfei Well

Public transport

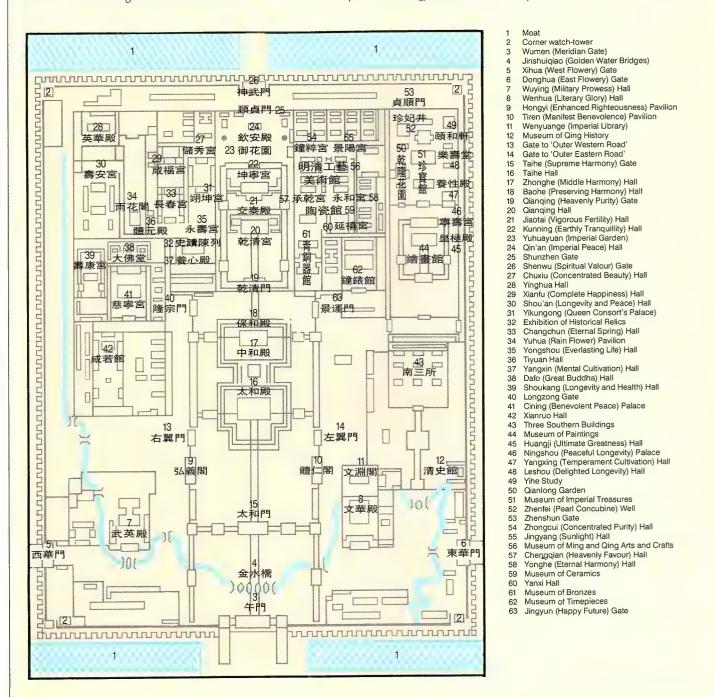
By bus Take nos. 1, 2, 4, 5, 10, 20, 22, 37, 110 or 203 to Tian'anmen or Qianmen. Entrance via Wumen Gate.

Or take nos. 3 or 5 to Jingshan. Entrance via Shenwu Gate.

By underground Alight at Qianmen Station. Entrance via Wumen Gate.

By trolley-bus Take nos. 101, 103, 109 or 111 to Jingshan. Entrance via Shenwu Gate.

Facilities Announcement centre • hire of self-guiding cassettes • photographer's studio • drinks and snacks • foreign visitors' reception centre • toilets • souvenirs



Attractions in Greater Beijing

Great Wall at Mutianyu Located on the boundary of Huairou County, 73 kilometres northeast of the city proper. This section of the Great Wall was first built during the Qi (479-502) of the Southern and Northern Dynasties, and renovated in the late Tang dynasty (618-907). A pass was built here in 1404 in the Ming dynasty. The section is 2,250 metres long with 22 watch-towers. It lies along the southeast-northwest axis at over 500 metres above sea-level. Three sections converge at 603 metres above sea-level.

So far, 1,500 metres of wall have been renovated, together with fourteen watchtowers. Carparks, restaurants and other facilities have been constructed and cablecars, the first of their kind in the Beijing area, went into service in 1988.

Access At the peak season, there is a direct bus service to Mutianyu from Beijing's Dongzhimen Bus Station. At other times, access is more complicated. First take a bus to Huairou, then change to another bus to Mutianyu or take a taxi from the Great Wall Hotel, Nandajie Street, Huairou. Tourist agencies run special coaches to Mutianyu; tickets can be purchased from offices at Beijing Railway Station, Beijing Zoo, the front entrance of Beihai Park, Jingshan Park, etc.

Bailongtan (White Dragon Pool) Thirty kilometres northeast of Miyun, on the eastern side of the Miyun Reservoir, 103 kilometres northeast of Beijing. With its green mountains, clear waters and pleasant climate (about 5°C lower than in the city), this area is a popular summer resort.

Access Take a bus from Beijing's Dongzhimen Bus Station to Miyun, then change to one direct to Bailongtan. Individual tourists should allow a two-day schedule to visit Bailongtan.

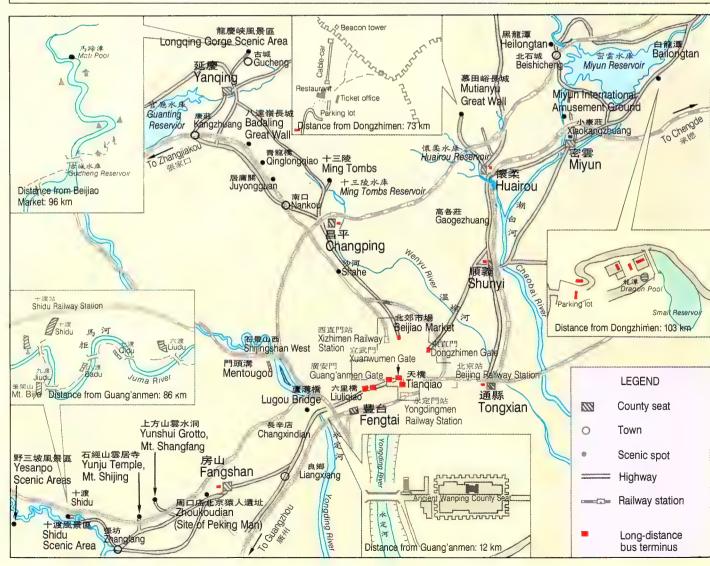
Lugou (Marco Polo) Bridge Located fifteen

kilometres southwest of Beijing on the River Yongding, called the Lugou in the Jin dynasty (1115-1234), hence the name. First completed in 1192, it was renovated in the early Qing (1644-1911). It is 265 metres long and eight metres wide, with eleven stone arches, and is the oldest extant bridge in Beijing. It's fun to try to count the bewildering number of lions on its white marble balustrades!

Access From Xuanwumen, take bus no. 309 and alight at Lugou Xinqiao Bus Station, or change to bus no. 339 at Liuliqiao and alight at Lugouqiao Bus Station. If approaching from the direction of Fengtai, take bus no. 313 and alight at Lugou Xinqiao.

Shidu (**Tenth Ferry**) On the upper reaches of the River Juma on the edge of Fangshan County, 86 kilometres southwest of Beijing proper. The Shidu Scenic Area is famous for its scenery: wide valleys and cliffs and rock formations almost like at Guilin. In autumn,

MAP OF ATTRACTIONS OUTSIDE BEIJING



the red leaves on the mountains are a lovely sight. There are small restaurants, hotels and shops at nearby Liudu (Sixth Ferry) and Jiudu (Ninth Ferry). Camping on the river banks and barbecues are popular activities in summertime.

Access Take train no. 478 from Beijing's Yongdingmen Railway Station and alight at Shidu.

Tent Palace of Genghis Khan Located at the foot of the Great Wall at Badaling in the village of Shifosi (Stone Buddha Temple) only three kilometres from Badaling. According to historical records, Genghis Khan twice (1213 and 1215) led his troops to attack Beijing, making this village their headquarters. This reproduction in an area of about 10,000 square metres is centred on a large Mongolian-type yurt, 13.5 metres high and eighteen metres in diameter. It contains a throne, a portrait of Genghis Khan and twenty panels giving a brief biography of the great leader of the Mongols, whose descendants went on to found the Yuan dynasty (1271-1368). Side halls house an exhibition on Mongolian lifestyles and customs. This complex was only opened in December 1989.

Access There are special coach tours direct to the complex from the Qianmen Tourist Coach Station. Another way is to take the train to Badaling.

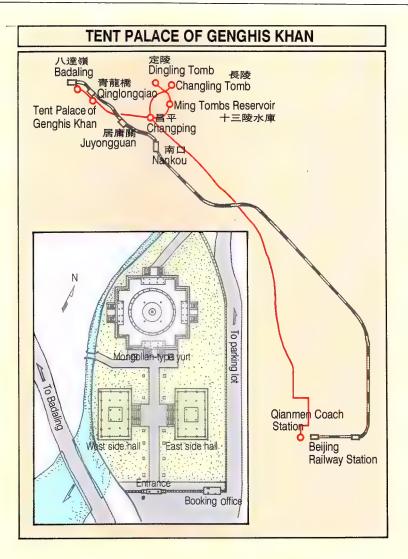
Two New Destinations

The **Longqing Gorge** is located in Yanqing County, just beyond the Great Wall at Badaling, 85 kilometres northwest of Beijing proper. The River Gucheng originates on the eastern slope of Mount Dahaituo (2,241 metres above sea-level), the highest mountain in the northern area of Greater Beijing, and flows eastwards through the gorge, joining the River Guishui before turning southwest to swell the Guanting Reservoir.

The rock of this district is limestone and dolomite, and thus water-soluble. The steep and narrow gorge is the result of centuries of erosion by the river.

In 1981, a dam seventy metres high (59 metres above ground-level) and ninety metres wide was built one kilometre above the mouth of the River Gucheng. With the construction of the dam and the raising of the river's level, the Longqing Gorge too has been affected, especially the section forming the middle and lower reaches of the reservoir.

The gorge is around fifty metres wide at its widest and less than ten metres wide at its narrowest point. It also has many bends and turns, making for a fascinating boat trip.



The Ice Lantern Exhibition is held every year at Longging Gorge. Because of its low altitude, the plain around Beijing is affected by the cold air currents from the Taihang Mountains. When these subside, the climate is relatively mild. Even in the coldest month, lanuary, the average temperature is 1.4°C. On January 12 1975 the temperature recorded was 12.9°C - much too warm for ice sculptures! However, the Longqing Gorge area at an altitude of about 570 metres has an average January temperature of around -3.5°C. It is seldom above freezing at that time. Thus the valley just below the dam has been chosen as the ideal spot for the Longqing Gorge Ice Lantern Exhibition during the Spring Festival. Awnings are erected over the exhibits to keep off the sun. The exhibition ends towards the end of February, when the weather starts to become milder.

The **Kangxi Grassland** also lies within Yanqing County. Bordering the southeastern shore of the Guanting Reservoir, it is located two kilometres west of Kangzhuang Station on the Beijing-Zhangjiakou railway line. This is what gives it its name — Kangxi means 'west of Kangzhuang'.

The grassland has an area of about 2,100 hectares and contains over fifty species of grasses and plants. It is home to more than twenty species of birds — swans, wildfowl, seagulls — and around ten animal types such as hares, foxes, etc.

When the Kangxi Grassland Resort Centre was opened in July 1988, it only offered sightseeing tours, horse-riding and bonfire parties. It was closed down in early 1989 and, after renovation, re-opened in July this year. It now has a new entrance, more roads, restaurants, food shops, a handicraft service section and an entertainment hall, as well as ball courts, a fishing zone and a swimming pool. In addition, over a hundred horses — both ex-army horses and Mongolian ponies — are available for hire to experienced riders. The less experienced can opt for a ride on a pony led by a groom.

Located in the Yanqing Basin, the Kangxi Grassland on a summer's day may reach 28-30°C, dropping to 16-18°C at night. The difference between the daytime and night-time temperatures can be even greater at other seasons.

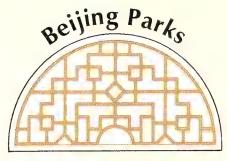
The gardens and parks of the capital are not only relaxing, many of them also contain examples of traditional architecture. Here are some of the most famous.

Beihai Park, west of the Palace Museum, has an area of 68 hectares, fifty percent of which is water. Part of the imperial residential enclave, Beihai was opened as a public park in 1925. Apart from the architectural complex known as Xiaoxitian. (Little Western Paradise) in the northwest part of the park, largely built by Emperor Qianlong for his mother's eightieth birthday, the most interesting architecture is to be found on Qionghua Island, culminating in the White Dagoba which crowns the summit of the hill. There is boating on the lake in summer, skating in winter. Opening hours: 6 am to 8 pm (9 pm in summer).

Jingshan (Coal Hill) Park overlooks the Forbidden City from the north and rises directly opposite the Shenwu Gate. From towards the end of the Yuan dynasty, this area was reserved for the emperor and imperial household. Qiwang Tower at the southern entrance is where Confucian rites were observed by the court. Jingshan Hill, 43 metres high, is topped by five peaks, each adorned with a pavilion, the highest being Wanchun (Ten Thousand Springs) Pavilion. North of the hill stand Shouhuang Hall and Guande Hall, sites of ancestor-worshipping ceremonies. An old scholar-tree on the eastern side of the hill attracts many people; this is where Emperor Chongzhen of the Ming dynasty hung himself, having killed his children and consort, as the armies of the rebel leader Li Zicheng entered the capital in 1644. The west gate of Jingshan Park is directly opposite the east gate to Beihai Park. Opening hours: 6 am to 8 pm.

Zhongshan or Sun Yat-sen Park is just west of Tian'anmen Gate. During the Ming and Qing dynasties, this was Shejitan (Altar of Land and Grain), where the emperors presided over solemn rites. It became a public park in 1914 and has changed name several times. In 1928, after the death of Dr Sun Yat-sen in Beijing in 1925, it was renamed in tribute. The park contains a greenhouse where rare plants and flowers are displayed throughout the year.

Zhongnanhai lies on the western side of the Forbidden City, south of Beihai Park. The name literally means 'Central and South Lakes', as opposed to Beihai, 'North Lake'.

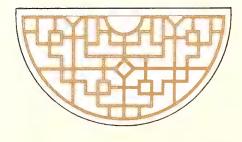




Ditan (Temple of Earth) Park (by Chan Yat Nin)



Lake views from the marble boat at the Summer Palace (by Chan Yat Nin)



For around the last four decades its buildings have housed the State Council and served as private residences for many of China's leaders. Since May 1980, part of Zhongnanhai has been open to organized tour groups on Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays.

Sites included in the tour include Yingtai (Sea Terrace), an island in the lake where the Qing emperors after Qianlong received their education in the Butong Study. This was also where Emperor Guangxu was imprisoned by his aunt, the Empress Dowager Cixi, after the failure of his reform movement in the early years of this century. Fengzeyuan was where the Qing emperors made a semblance at practising farming. This was Mao Zedong's home for quite a long time. Jinggu is a separate courtyard, peaceful and elegant, with

many green bamboos. It is known as the 'garden within the garden'.

Zizhuyuan (Purple Bamboo) Park is west of Beijing Zoo outside the Xizhimen Gate. Green trees surround a large lake. This was another Qing imperial residence; Cixi used to rest here before she took a boat along the canal to Lake Kunming at the Summer Palace. You can still see the ruins of the quay. Bamboos grow everywhere, many of them the purple bamboos which are native to Sichuan, Fujian and Jiangsu.

Yiheyuan (Summer Palace) is fifteen kilometres northwest of the city proper, and is primarily associated with the later part of the Oing dynasty, especially with the Empress Dowager Cixi, although it had been an imperial site since the Jin dynasty (1115-1234). It was opened as a public park in 1924. It consists primarily of Lake Kunming and Wanshou (Longevity) Hill. The area of the park can be divided up according to three functions: Renshou Hall inside Donggong (East Palace) Gate was where Cixi and Emperor Guangxu held audiences and received official envoys; Yulan Hall, Yiyunguan and Leshou (Happy Longevity) Hall were the actual imperial living quarters; and the southern and northern flanks of Wanshou Hill and Lake Kunming itself were the scenic areas. Cixi's three-storeyed outdoor stage is of particular interest. Opening hours: 7 am to 7 pm (9 pm in summer).

Access Direct from the Beijing Zoo on bus no. 332.

Xiangshan (Fragrant Hills) Park is situated on the eastern slopes of the Western Hills, around twenty-three kilometres northwest of the city proper. It offers beautiful natural scenery. The Fragrant Hills Hotel lies on a hill in the southeastern part of the park while the main historical relics are found in the north, west and south. It offers cool breezes in summer, red maple leaves in autumn, and lovely snowscapes in winter.

Access Bus no. 333 from the Summer Palace, bus no. 360 from Beijing Zoo, or take a special direct coach tour there.

Longtanhu (Dragon Lake) Park outside the Zuo'anmen Gate, east of Tiantan (Temple of Heaven) Park, is a newly laid-out park. The buildings, the architectural details, even the plant layout, are based on the image of the fabulous Chinese dragon.

Access Buses nos. 6 and 60 will take you there.

Daguanyuan (**Grand View Garden**) is set beside the city moat in southwestern Beijing. It covers an area of 12.5 hectares, including 8,000 square metres of buildings. This garden in classical style is based on the buildings in *A Dream of Red Mansions*, the famous Qing-dynasty novel. The complex, a copy in every detail, was completed in 1986 to provide an authentic setting for a TV series on the novel.

Access Take bus no. 5 to the You'anmen Gate terminus, then walk for fifteen minutes along the River Xibin in a westerly direction.

Tiantan (Temple of Heaven) Park is the major ancient religious site of Beijing. It lies to the east of Qianmen Dajie and formed the southern pole of the north-south axis of the city of the emperors. It was made a public park in 1949.

Entering through the West Heavenly Gate, you come first to Zhaigong, the Hall of Abstinence, where the emperor fasted in preparation for the sacrificial rites. The square complex of buildings is surrounded by a moat. Continue along the path to the south to Huanqiu (Altar of Heaven), an open altar consisting of three white marble terraces, built in 1530. The figure 3 and its multiples figure largely in the make-up of the structures in the park. Back to the north lies Huangqiongyu (Imperial Vault of Heaven), a small circular wooden building built in 1530, roofed with blue tiles. This was where the spirit tablet of the Supreme Ruler of the Universe was stored between ceremonies. It is surrounded by the Echo Wall, so called because of its acoustic properties.

Continuing north along the great raised causeway, with parklands of cypress trees on either side, you reach the major building in the park. This is Qiniandian (Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests), one of the most evocative pieces of architecture in the world. The round wooden hall is surmounted by a triple roof of blue tiles crowned with a gilt ball, and stands on three circular white marble terraces in a square courtyard. The original was built in 1420, but burned down in 1889. The present reconstruction, faithful to the original, contains no nails.

The park also boasts a fine rose garden. Be warned: Tiantan Park is more than twice as large as the Forbidden City, so good walking shoes are recommended! Opening hours: 6:30 am to 6 pm.

Entertainment Possibilities

Nighttime entertainment in Beijing used to be limited to the big hotels for foreign visitors, especially those who did not speak Chinese. And it is true that the major hotels now have an even better selection of bars, discotheques and dance halls. There is Juliana's Disco at the Holiday Inn Lido Beijing, for example, and the Shangri-La's nightclub featuring folksingers. Karaoke fans are spoilt for choice: the luxurious karaoke lounge at the Jing Guang New World Hotel has a huge screen, that at the Kunlun Hotel is more in the Japanese style, while The Point After at the Palace Hotel alternates karaoke hours with music from the resident band. There are now many more pubs, including the Pig and Whistle at the Holiday Inn Lido Beijing where you can also play darts. Some hotels even have small cinemas and minitheatres. However, those with a taste for something different will find much more available if they care to seek it out.

Cinemas Films, whether made in China or overseas, are rarely shown with anything but a Chinese soundtrack. The small cinema at the Great Wall Hotel offers Chinese feature films with English captions at 8 pm every Monday and Thursday. Relatively new films from home and abroad are the speciality of Beijing Tuxin Wenhua Cinema, 39 Baishigiao Road (tel.: 8315566-5145). The only cinema to date offering 70mm large-screen facilities is Daguanlou Cinema, 36 Dazhalan Street, Qianmenwai (tel.: 330878). Cinemas with the best facilities include Capital Cinema, Xichang'anjie Street (tel.: 655510); Dahua Cinema, Dongdan Beidajie (tel.: 550125); Beijing Exhibition Centre Cinema, Xizhimenwai Dajie (tel.: 891383); Ziguang Cinema, 168 Chaoyangmenwai Dajie (tel.: 592006).

Night markets These are primarily places to buy snack foods from private vendors from all over China — skewered kebabs from the northwest; cold noodles in chilli and sesame sauce from Sichuan; dumplings from eastern China; beef cakes and beancurd soups from northern China. One of them can be found in front of the Longfu Department Store not far from the Dongsi intersection. Another at the northern end of Wangfujing is on Bamiancao Street, and there is yet another on East Changan Avenue opposite the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

Teahouse entertainment The Lao She Teahouse, 3/FL., Building 3, Qianmen Xidajie (tel.: 546324), is a new establishment in the style of Old Beijing. Decorated in traditional fashion, it seats 200 and provides all kinds of teas and refreshments and snacks as well as performances of a variety of folk arts: ballad-singing, conjuring tricks, comic dialogues, and so on. Acts change every three days. On Sunday, from 9 am to noon, there is Beijing Opera in conjunction with the Beijing People's Broadcasting Station; folk arts are performed 3:30–5 pm. Evening business hours: 7:30–9 pm every evening. See CHINA TOURISM no. 122.

Performing arts The following are some of the major possibilities. Performance times are generally 7:15—10 pm; 7—9:45 pm in the winter months.

Shen Shou Jun

Translated by Tsui Lai Hing

Theatre	Address	Tel.	Programme			
People's Theatre	Huguosi Street	662476				
Chang'an Theatre	Xidan	655915	Beijing opera, but also Yu opera,			
Jixiang Theatre	Jinyu Alley, Wangfujing	555501	Chuan opera, Jing opera, Cantonese			
Guanghe Theatre	Roushi Street, Qianmen Dajie	751892	opera, Hebei opera, etc.			
Zhonghe Theatre	Liangshidian Street, Qianmenwai	330403				
Tianqiao Theatre	East end of Beiwei Rd, Tianqiao	330513	Ballads, opera, folksongs and dances			
Auditorium of Minzhu Cultural Palace	Xidan West	6022770	Folk music, song and dance			
Cinema-Theatre at Beijing Exhibition Centre	Xizhimenwai Dajie	891383	ditto			
Zhongshan Concert Hall	Within Zhongshan Park	654028	ditto			
Feb. 7 Theatre	Feb. 7 Theatre Rd, Fuxingmenwai	866262	Acrobatics			
Beijing Acrobatics Rehearsal Arena	Dazhalan Street, Qianmenwai	331002	ditto			
Chaoyang Theatre	Hujialou, Dong Sanhuan Road	582421	Combined performances, e.g. folk song and dance, acrobatics, magic, instrumental music, Beijing opera, etc.			
Beijing Concert Hall	Liubukou	655812	Symphony orchestra, instrumental music, pop music, recitals, etc.			
Capital Theatre	North end of Wangfujing Dajie	550978	Modern drama			

Restaurants of Age-Old Fame

Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant

Opened in 1864 in the Qing dynasty, it is now more than 120 years old, serving mainly the roast duck (force-fed duck) known as 'Peking duck' worldwide, although it actually originated in Shandong Province. The main premises are located at Hepingmen (tel: 338031), but there is a branch at Qianmen Dajie (tel: 5112418) and another at Shuaifuyuan near Wangfujing (tel: 551642).

Bianyifang Roast Duck Restaurant

Apart from Quanjude's way of roasting duck over a fire, there is a different method. Sorghum stalks are used as fuel to heat an oven; the duck is placed inside and is cooked by the heat of the oven walls and burning charcoal.

This restaurant is located at Chongwenmen Dajie (tel: 755007), with a branch at Dongce Road, Tiantan (Temple of Heaven) (tel: 750904).

Fangshan Restaurant

The quintessence of Chinese cuisine was adopted and developed by the imperial kitchens of succeeding dynasties. Fangshan Restaurant is staffed with people trained personally by elderly chefs of the Qing imperial kitchens. It is located at Yilan Hall on the northern side of Qiongdao Island in Beihai Park (tel: 442573, 4011879).

Tanjiacai (Tan Family Cuisine)

Tan family cuisine includes home-made delicacies that have been popular in Beijing for more than a century. It is named after the family of an official, Tan Zongjun, who lived towards the close of the Qing dynasty. Natives of Guangdong, both father and son were fond of good food. They invited all the best chefs in Beijing to cook for them, watching and learning their culinary arts, and assimilated them to create this cuisine. With the decline of the Tan family at the end of the Qing dynasty, they opened a restaurant which also catered to the common people.

Tan family cuisine boasts more than 100 delicious dishes, the best being swallow's nest and shark's fin. A restaurant was first opened in a back court in Xidan. Later it moved into the Beijing Hotel as one of its speciality restaurants.

Donglaishun

This restaurant is known for its 'instant-boiled mutton', a delicacy which found its way to Beijing in the mid-17th century and appeared on the menu of the Qing court as 'Mutton Slices Hot Pot'. Autumn and winter are the best seasons for eating instant-boiled mutton. Donglaishun (tel: 550069) is at the north end of Dongfeng Market on Wangfujing Dajie.

Kaorouwan and Kaorouji

These two noted Beijing restaurants of very long standing serve roast meat. The former, established in 1686 in the Qing dynasty, is noted for its roast beef, while the speciality of the latter is roast mutton. The address of Kaorouji is 14E Shichaqianhai (tel: 445921), that of Kaorouwan Xuanwumennei Dajie (tel: 657707).

Yueshengzhai Spiced Braised Mutton Restaurant

The speciality of this restaurant is its Moslem food. The technique of preparing it dates back to the Qing dynasty. The meat used is limited to the front leg and loin of a sheep bred at Xikou, Jining, Inner Mongolia; the soybean sauce used must be months old; the spices are carefully selected. Beef is now also prepared in much the same way. Address: Qianmen Dajie (tel: 330370).

Bai Kui's Braised Mutton Restaurant

The original name of this Moslem restaurant was Dongchangshun, founded in 1780 in the Qing dynasty. Bai Kui was the name of the restaurant owner at that time; his customers enjoyed eating the braised mutton he prepared and simply referred to Dongchangshun as Bai Kui.

The mutton is crisp outside and tender inside, with a rich flavour. Customers may order the cut of mutton they prefer. Bai Kui's braised mutton may be eaten with a sesame seed cake like a sandwich. The noodles in braised mutton soup also taste wonderful. Address: Jiaodaokou Nandajie.

Duyichu Steamed Dumplings Shop

This is noted for its *shaomai* (steamed dumplings open at the top). Only flour of best quality is used to make the dough and the stuffing consists of either three different delicious ingredients or specially prepared minced pork.

This eating house was founded in 1738. Years back, when Emperor Qianlong was wandering around Beijing *incognito*, he found only one small restaurant open in Qianmen. He went inside to eat his fill. Pleased, he wrote three characters *Du Yi Chu* (The One and Only Place) upon his return to the palace and ordered a eunuch to take them to the shop owner. This small place became famous, prospering for the next 200 years. It has now been renovated and expanded. Address: Qianmenwai Dajie (tel: 5112094).

Guixiangcun and Daoxiangchun

These are both famous shops which sell cakes and cooked meat such as braised meat in soybean sauce and dried meat. They also sell special snacks on festive occasions, such as zongzi (pyramid-shaped dumplings made of sticky rice wrapped in reeds eaten on the fifth day of the fifth month), niangao (new year cake) and yuanxiao (ball-like dumplings eaten on the Lantern Festival on the 15th day of the first lunar month). Guixiangcun is located at Xidan Beidajie (tel: 660374), Daoxiangchun at Caoyuan Lane (tel: 4014912).

Kongshantang Confucian Heritage Restaurant

Confucius's family, the Kong family from Qufu in Shandong, developed a distinctive style of cooking that can still be enjoyed today at this restaurant. Address: 3 West Liulichang, Xuanwu District (tel: 330689).

Gongdelin Vegetarian Restaurant

Offering Buddhist vegetarian cuisine, it is styled after a famous Shanghai restaurant of the same name. It is located at 158 Qianmennan Dajie (tel: 750876).

Translated by Ren Jiazhen

Average Climatic Conditions in Beijing

		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Dalling	Temperature (°C)	-46	-2.2	4.5	13.1	19.8	24 0	25.8	24.4	19.4	12.4	41	-2.7
Beijing	Rainfall (mm)	3.0	7.4	8.6	19.4	33.1	77.8	192.5	212.3	570	24.0	6.6	2.6
Yanging	Temperature (°C)	-88	-6.0	1.4	10.5	17.7	21.5	23 4	21.9	16.4	92	0.7	-6.8
Yanging	Rainfall (mm)	2.9	4.1	8.2	19.7	22.3	56.2	163.3	141.2	47.6	24.5	5.3	1.0

Train Schedules Beijing – Zhengzhou – Wuchang – Changsha – Guangzhou

47 Exp. 19:04 22:45 04:00	15 Exp. 22:30 01:56	5 Exp. 23:27 03:08	Train No. Station Beljing	6 Exp. 09:16	16 Exp. 06:00	48 Exp. 10:32	62 Exp.	150 F.T.
19:04 22:45	22:30	23:27	7					
22:45			Beljing	09:16	06:00	10.32	05.05	
	01:56	03:08			-5.00	10.02	05:35	15:50
04:00		45.00	Shijiazhuang	05:41	02:45	07:02	02:20	11:52
04.00	06:55	08:20	Zhengzhou	00:22	21:36	01:41	20:49	05:48
11:37	14:11	16:00	Wuchang	16:39	14:02	17:35	12:39	21:26
14:48	- 1	19:12	Yueyang	13:28		14:28	_	17:55
16:57	19:14	21:22	Changsha	11:21	08:56	12:16	07:35	15:47
18:07		-	Zhuzhou	_	, —	11:06		14:40
20:08	22:08	00:16	Hengyang	08:19	05:50	08:48	From	_
02:16	04:12	ТО	Shaoguan	From	23:58	02:23	Kunning	From Guiyang
05:50	07:45	Nanning	Quangzhou	Nanning	20:15	22:35		, ,
	11:37 14:48 16:57 18:07 20:08 02:16 05:50	11:37 14:11 14:48 — 16:57 19:14 18:07 — 20:08 22:08 02:16 04:12	11:37	11:37 14:11 16:00 Wuchang 14:48 — 19:12 Yueyang 16:57 19:14 21:22 Changsha 18:07 — Zhuzhou 20:08 22:08 00:16 Hengyang 02:16 04:12 TO Shaoguan 05:50 07:45 Nanning Quangzhou	11:37 14:11 16:00 Wuchang 16:39 14:48 — 19:12 Yueyang 13:28 16:57 19:14 21:22 Changsha 11:21 18:07 — Zhuxhou — 20:08 22:08 00:16 Hengyang 08:19 02:16 04:12 TO Shaoguan From Nanning 05:50 07:45 Quangzhou Nanning	11:37	11:37	11:37

Exp. - Express F.T. - Fast through passenger train

Domestic Flights to and from Beijing

Route	Days of Week	Dep. Arr.	Flight No.
Guangzhou — Beijing → :	2 2 5 6 6 6 1 4 1 2 6 7 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:35 21:20 18:05 20:50 08:45 11:30 14:40 17:25 19:30 22:20 13:05 17:10 18:45 17:10 10:20 13:10 14:25 17:10 10:20 13:10 14:55 14:55 14:55 17:35 08:15 11:00 10:50 13:35 18:20 21:05 12:30 15:10	CACZ3193 CACZ972 CACZ3113 CACZ974 CA173 CA1382 CAC23121 CA978 CAWH2318 CA23109 CACZ3109 CACZ31101 CACZ3115 CA1302 CACZ3115 CA1302 CACZ3115 CA1302 CACZ3115
Beijing — Guangzhou	2 4 5 5 6 1 5 7 1 3 4 7 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:00 11:05 08:10 11:05 12:45 15:30 12:45 15:30 15:55 18:45 18:35 21:20 09:35 12:25 15:25 18:05 10:30 18:20 21:05 12:00 14:45 09:00 11:45 09:00 11:45 14:50 17:35 14:25 17:15	CACZ971 CACZ3194 CACZ973 CA174 CACZ3114 CA977 CAWH2317 CA1307 CACZ3122 CACZ3122 CACZ3102 CAWH2137 CA1301 CACZ3116
Shanghal — Beljing	2 3 4 6 6 1 3 4 5 7 7 1 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:30 19:25 19:50 21:40 99:55 11:45 19:20 21:10 18:40 20:25 18:00 19:45 13:25 15:25 18:05 10:05 15:55 17:45 19:35 21:20 08:25 10:15 17:50 19:35 08:25 10:15 11:25 13:15	CA992 CA9002 CA9002 CA980 CA984 CA9882 CA986 SH103 SH101 MU5111 CA930 MU5143 CA992 MU5143 CA1502 MU5103
Beijing Shanghal	2 3 5 7 1 4 3 6 3 6 6 1 3 6 6 1 4 5 7 2 5 7 2 4 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	17:25 19:15 08:25 10:15 08:05 09:50 12:25 14:15 11:10 12:50 08:05 09:50 15:30 17:20 08:05 11:00 08:25 10:10 07:55 09:40 11:00 12:50 16:10 18:05 08:35 10:25 10:40 11:05 18:30 12:20	CA949 CA9001 CA993 CA991 MU5144 CA985 MU5126 CA981 MU5112 CA929 CA921 MU5144 SH102 CA1501 MU5104
Tianjin — Beljing	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	19:45 20:25 17:30 18:20	CA1002 CA1158
Beijing — Tianjin	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:35 10:15 07:50 08:35	CA1002 CA1157

Flights to and from Beiling

Bents	Days of Week	Dep. Arr.	Flight No.
Route			
Frankfurt — Beljing	2 4 6	15:00 07:50	CA932
Beijing - Frankfurt :	2 4 6	09:25 13:00	CA931
Hong Kong — Beijing	1 3 7 1 3 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:20 20:25 16:40 19:30 10:00 12:50 12:20 15:00	CA1002 CA110 CA309 CA102
Beijing — Hong Kong	4 1 3 7 1 3 6 7 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	09:35 14:45 12:20 15:25 13:45 16:50 07:45 10:50	CA1001 CA109 CACZ310 CA101
London — Beijing	4 7	10:00 11:15 10:00 09:45	CA938 CA956
Beijing — London	3 6	21:25 08:10 22:25 08:10	CA937 CA955
Paris — Beljing	1 3 6	09:35 06:05 09:35 11:45 09:35 07:20	CA934 CA950 CA934
Beijing — Paris	5 7	17:25 07:35 21:25 07:25	CA949 CA933
San Francisco — Belling	1 5 1 4 4 7	13:30 21:10 10:25 19:45 13:00 20:25	CA984 CA986 CA982
Beijing — San Francisco	1 4 3 6	08:05 11:35 08:05 08:25 09:15 07:55	CA983 CA985 CA981
Singapore — Beljing	2 6	09:30 17:10 09:30 17:10	CA958 CA978
Beijing Singapore	1 5	09:35 17:30 09:35 17:30	CA957 CA977
Sydney Beijing	6	11:50 22:20	CA173
Beljing Sydney	5	15:55 10:15	CA174
Tokyo — Beljing	2 3 5 4 7	15:00 19:45 16:40 21:40 14:40 19:45 17:00 22:00	CA986 CA9002 CA986 CA952
Beljing — Tokyo	3 7 1 4 3 6 1 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	08:25 15:30 09:10 15:40 08:05 14:55 08:15 13:25 08:25 15:20 08:45 13:50	CA9001 CA951 CA985 CA915 CA929 CA925

Classic Beauty Beyond Compare – The Palace Museum

(Continued from page 45)

lacquerware inlaid with mother-of-pearl.

Southwest of Chuxiu Hall is Changchun Hall, opposite which is the stage where operas were performed from the time of the Ming dynasty for the imperial household's delectation. The corridors on all four sides of Changchun Hall are painted with murals believed to date from the late Qing, portraying scenes from the novel A Dream of Red Mansions.

South of this latter hall lies Yongshou (Everlasting Life) Hall, which is now used as an exhibition room for articles used by Puyi. They include examples of his calligraphy, English books, eyeglasses, mirrors, inkstones, pens, brush containers, table lamps, etc.

Further south still is Yangxin (Mental Cultivation) Hall, the study and residence of the Qing emperors from the time of the third emperor, Yongzheng (reign dates 1723–1735), right through to the unfortunate Puyi, with whom the imperial line and indeed dynastic China came to an end. In front of the imperial study stands an unusual and supremely elegant work of bronze. It is an incense-burner made up of three cranes (the crane being a traditional symbol of longevity), each standing on one leg. Two of the cranes have their beak tucked under one wing so that their bent necks form the handles of the burner.

Yangxin Hall is constructed like an 'H' laid on its side, the front and rear rooms forming the longer strokes while the connecting corridor represents the shorter cross stroke. Covered corridors around the outside connect its rooms. It is one of the most luxuriously decorated dwellings in the Forbidden City, with the emperor's desk and chair in the centre of the front room.

Sanxitang Hall within Xinuan Pavilion in the imperial study was named by Emperor Qianlong himself (reign dates 1736–1795). Examples of his calligraphy still hang on the walls. The west wall facing the door is covered by a huge mural, on which windows and tiled walls are drawn realistically with a sense of perspective. By creating the impression that there is another room beyond, this mural contributes to the feeling of space.

West and south of this hall, in a section known as the 'Outer Western Road', is Cining (Benevolent Peace) Palace, where elderly empresses and concubines used to live out their final years in worship of Buddha. But this is not yet open to tourists.

The main exhibition galleries of the Palace Museum are housed in the eastern quarters, once the home of concubines. Standard exhibits include ceramics, bronzes, paintings, Ming and Qing arts and crafts, and jewellery, as well as an extraordinary collection of timepieces.

I headed east towards Jingren (Great Benevolence) Hall, stopping to admire the towering vermilion portal, its bronze rivets symmetrically arranged. It is supported by a bronze frame embossed with dragons, clouds and other auspicious symbols. This portal, though not the only one of its kind in the Forbidden City, struck me with its beauty of form and colour as well as its strength.

Still further east I entered the area of the Ningshou (Peaceful Longevity) Hall, built by Emperor Qianlong. Beyond this palace lies the Qianlong Garden, similar to but rather smaller than the Imperial Garden mentioned above. Emperor Qianlong so loved the southern Chinese style of garden that he created one in his own backyard! Its area of 160 by 37 metres is divided into four courtyards containing more than twenty structures of different architectural styles, making use of the contrast between big and small, illusory and real, symmetrical and asymmetrical.... Considering the rigid aesthetic rules applied elsewhere in the Forbidden City, this garden can be considered truly innovative.

Translated by Chapman Lee

Famous Shopping Areas and Shops

The busiest and best shopping centres in Beijing are Qianmen, Wangfujing and Xidan. Liulichang is of interest for its antiques and curios.

Oianmen

This is one of the oldest commercial districts in the capital. While rows of shops line Qianmen Dajie south of Qianmen Gate, the many back lanes such as Langfang First, Second and Third Lanes, Zhubaoshi (Jewellery Market), Xianyukou (Fresh Fish Corner) and Dazhalan (Big Fence), too, are fascinating to wander through. Dazhalan, in particular. There you can find shops selling traditional Chinese medicines, silk and cotton goods, women's clothing, shoes, watch-maker's shops, optical shops, and a shop catering to children. At the north end of the main street, the new Qianmen Commercial Building on the east side is now open, selling all sorts of things. Then there is the Kentucky Fried Chicken Restaurant and Dawancha (Large Bowl Tea) Arcade. On the main street there is a Chinese pharmacy, a shop specializing in repairing watches and clocks, the Quanjude Roast Duck Restaurant, Duyichu dumpling shop, Zhengmingzhai cake shop, Laozhengxing Shanghai Restaurant and a bicycle shop.

Tongrentang Lejia Laopu is the oldest traditional pharmacy in the city with a history of over 300 years. It is known as Lejia Laopu (Le's Old Shop) because it was founded by Le Zunyu. It prepares medicines of good quality and at reasonable prices in a most meticulous way, thus winning the confidence of its customers. Moreover, thanks to the secret prescriptions of the imperial physicians and time-honoured recipes of the emperors, which the pharmacy managed to get hold of, as well as efficacious recipes they collected from the common people, Tongrentang is in a position to prepare patent medicines and medicinal wine with great tonic value.

It is located on Dazhalan outside Qianmen Gate. Tel: 3014483.

Neiliansheng Shoes was founded in 1853 and is known among Beijing residents for its cloth shoes. The 'thousand layer sole' cloth shoes made by Neiliansheng are most comfortable to wear. It also makes shoes with leather, cloth and plastic soles. It has resumed making cotton-padded shoes for elderly people, known as Laotoule (Old Man's Pleasure). This too is on Dazhalan, outside Qianmen Gate. Tel: 3013038.

Liulichang

West of Qianmen Dajie through the maze of back streets lies Liulichang, the well-known 'cultural' street. This is the

place to find rubbings from ancient bronze and stone tablets, paintings and calligraphy, traditional stationery (writing brushes, ink, inkstones and paper), and cultural relics of every description. It also contains Beijing's biggest bookshop selling old and secondhand books - China Bookstore, as well as a shop selling ancient books.

Rongbaozhai at West Liulichang is a time-honoured art dealer with a history of more than 200 years. Its traditional business line is buying and selling paintings, calligraphy, rubbings from bronze and stone tablets, traditional stationery, antiques and curios. Its skill in watercolour block printing is especially high and it reproduces many masterpieces of famous artists of the past and present. Its address: No. 19, Liulichang Xijie, outside Hepingmen Gate. Tel: 333352 (sales dept).

Wangfujing

One of the busiest commercial districts in Beijing, north of Chang'an Avenue and west of the Beijing Hotel, Wangfujing Dajie boasts the famous Dongfeng (East Wind) Market, Beijing Department Store, Xinhua Bookstore and Foreign Languages Bookstore, all the biggest of their kind in the city. It is also home to the New China Children's Department Store with a special section selling toys, the Beijing Arts and Crafts Service Department, and the Rei-Lantian and Donghua clothing meng, shops.

Shengxifu the Hatter's is a shop with a history of over 70 years. Hats can be made to order to suit the taste of the customer. The materials used include wool, sable, otter and mongoose. Sales department on Wangfujing Dajie. Tel: 551196.

Xidan

West of Zhongnanhai, on Xidanbei Dajie, you will find the Xidan Market, the famous Xidan Food Market, a clothing shop, a beauty salon, as well as the Guixiangcun Food Store. The Baihua (Hundred Flowers) Mall with privately run shops, restaurants and stalls and eating houses serving local snacks opened recently at the northeast corner of Xidan.

In addition to these major districts, a big mansion - Longfu House - built on the old site of the Longfu Monastery at Dongsi contains another emporium of considerable magnitude. There is also the White Peacock World on Beibinhe Road outside the Deshengmen Gate, another shop of fairly large size dealing with arts and crafts.

Translated by Ren Jiazhen

ARTS

Cloisonné Enamel

The art of cloisonné flourished during the Jingtai reign (1450-1456) of the Ming dynasty. It was then particularly known for its blue enamels.

The oldest extant piece of Beijing cloisonné was made during the Xuande reign (1426-1435) of the Ming dynasty. Bronze was used as the material for the body during the Ming dynasty, but improvements in technique led to its replacement by copper during the reign of the Qing emperor Qianlong (1736–1795). Beijing cloisonné was loved for its elegance and was much used in the imperial palaces for everyday utensils as well as for ornamental and ceremonial vessels. Its production started within the imperial workshops and gradually spread outside in the late Qing. During the reign of Emperor Daoguang (1820-1850), it started to be exported.

The production of Beijing cloisonné is rather complicated. A finished product will have gone through many processes.

Inlaid Lacquerware

Inlaid lacquerware is usually used as decoration on large pieces of furniture such as tables, chairs and screens. A piece of wood is carved into shape and burnished, and layers of black lacquer are applied. When the lacquer has reached the desired thickness, multi-coloured precious stones, ivory, mother-of-pearl and ox-horn are inlaid according to design to form images of flowers, birds, human figures, pavilions, etc. Background scenery or a pattern is then applied in gold or coloured lacquer. Inlaid lacquer furniture is strong, moisture-proof and very durable.

Carved Jade

Leading jade carvers flocked to Beijing during the Liao, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. Since the Ming dynasty, Beijing has been a well-known jade carving centre. The Sea of Jade of Dushan', the huge urn exhibited in Beihai Park, is carved out of a single piece of jade and is believed to have been used to hold wine by Kublai Khan, the first emperor of the Yuan dynasty. The precious gems and stones set in this jade urn fell off long ago, but its ingenuity and grandness of scale is still evident. Another famous work of jade, belonging to the collection of the Palace Museum, is the Qing jade piece 'Yu the Great Calms the Floods'. This is over two metres high, it weighs seven tons, and it was thirteen years in the making!

Glassware

Glass was referred to in ancient China as liuli, meaning 'coloured glaze'. Beijing did



not become an important production centre until the late Ming and early Qing dynasties. During the Qing dynasty, exquisite glass snuff bottles painted on the inside were particularly in fashion, and are now prized by antique-collectors all over the world.

Carved Lacquerware

Lacquer is a suitable material for all kinds of utensils. Chinese lacquerware comes in numerous different kinds and categories. Beijing is better known for its carved lacquerware. This has a copper body onto which are applied tens or hundreds of layers of lacquer, usually red. Decorative patterns and designs are carved into the lacquer before it is fully dry.

Carved Ivory

Beijing ivory was another speciality of the imperial workshops. Both the Ming and the Qing courts had bureaux organizing and governing the production of carved ivory. Among the Palace Museum's collection is the Yue Man Qing You, meaning 'Light Tour Under Graceful Moonlight', a famous Qing carved ivory album consisting of eighteen pages. Each page depicts a scene of the night journey, such as appreciating painting, tasting tea, rowing a boat, admiring flowers, and playing weigi (a kind of Chinese chess). Carved ivory of the Qing dynasty also came in the form of household utensils, such as fans and mats, or wooden objects were sometimes inlaid with it. Some carved ivory objects are also painted.

Carpets

Beijing carpets carry strong national traditions (see CHINA TOURISM no. 114). The most common motif consists of a *kui* (dragon) design at the centre with symmetric patterns at all four corners, while the borders are usually decorated with auspicious designs such as the character *shou* (longevity), peony, plum blossom, pine branches, Buddha's hand, lion, crane, bat, dragon, phoenix or *qilin* (the Chinese unicorn).

Needlework

Beijing needlework falls mainly into three categories: cross-stitch, appliqué and embroidery.

AND CRAFTS

Beijing cross-stitch work evolved from folk cross-stitching techniques. Cross-stitching, particularly monochrome in blue, white, grey or black, was extensively used as decoration on parts of clothing such as the edge of collars, the rim of trouser legs, the end of sleeves, pillow covers and children's bibs. Cross-stitch works produced at the Qing court were mostly in full colour. After the Opium War, cross-stitching sold in stores was mainly used on household linen: tablecloths, sheets and pillow covers. Today, Beijing cross-stitch work is characterized by its highly decorative use of bright colours as well as the contrast between light and dark.

Beijing appliqué developed from the patchwork of the Ming and Qing dynasties. It is mainly used on small objects such as wallets, perfume bags and other delicately decorative items.

Present-day Beijing embroidery is a development of Ming and Qing embroidery techniques. Most are replicas of antique embroidery pieces, while others are used on clothing and screens. The themes are usually scenery, portraiture, flowers and birds.

Beijing needlework of all kinds generally comes in the form of household articles such as tablecloth, blanket cover, pillow case, piano cover, bed sheet, bed cover, window and door curtains, embroidered clothing, sofa cover, decorative wall hanging, towel and apron.

Dough Carving

Dough, the key material used in dough carving, is steamed and then kneaded into lumps of appropriate sizes. The artist then kneads the lumps of dough into shapes vividly representing characters, animals or scenes from folk tales and theatrical plays. These figurines are then coloured. Since the dough is blended with honey and preservatives, the figurines can be kept for a long time once they have thoroughly dried.

Dough carving has always been popular in the area around Heze in Shandong Province. Its roots can be traced to the Han dynasty but it was not until the Tang and Song dynasties that dough figurines began to be modelled on characters from theatrical plays. Eventually professional dough carvers appeared as hawkers in markets and streets.

Beijing has been home to several dough carving masters, among them Tang Zibo. From the time when he first learned his trade at the age of sixteen until his death in 1971, Tang spent more than seventy years raising the artistic value of dough carving.

Snuff Bottles

Snuff bottles are usually made of

gem-stones, porcelain or glass and the most precious ones are of crystal, agate or chrysolite. Some glass bottles are painted inside with scenery, portraiture, animals, flowers, birds, insects, fish or Chinese calligraphy.

Opera Masks

Opera masks are made from clay and painted according to the different requirements of the roles in Beijing opera. These masks exaggerate the personality of the characters. For instance, red or black on the face would stand for loyalty or bravery while white would symbolize wickedness and treachery. Beijing opera masks make good wall decorations.

Beijing Opera Costumes

Beijing was the birthplace of Beijing opera, so the history of opera costume-making can be traced back more than 400 years.

The materials used for making opera costumes are high-quality satin and silk. The colour, pattern and design of the costume must be relevant to the age, personality, feature and social status of the role.

Apart from the arts and crafts shops mentioned elsewhere, here are three of Beijing's major arts and crafts outlets for those interested.

Yuan Long Embroidery Silk Store This is a shop with a long history where one can find embroideries, silks, satins, brocades, furs, drawnwork articles, carpets and tapestries, pearls and diamonds, gold and silver jewellery, and Chinese paintings.

Address: 55 Tiantan Road (at the north gate of Tiantan Park) — tel: 754059

Huaxia Arts and Crafts Shop Old clocks and watches, gold and silver ornaments, jade and ivory carvings, jewellery, carved lacquerware, blankets and leather products, and hardwood furniture (see photo above).

Main shop: 12 Chongwenmennei Street, Dongcheng District (tel: 544676, 541529) Branch: 293 Wangfujing Street, Dongcheng District (tel: 551819)

The Beijing Marco Polo Shop (of Beijing Arts & Crafts Import & Export Corporation) Offers traditional Chinese handicrafts, newly-crafted works of art, and reproductions of antiques including cloisonné ware, ivory and jade carvings, carpets, embroidered Mandarin coats, porcelain, jewellery, silk and furniture.

Address: Bldg. 10, Jianguomen St. (tel: 5002559)

Translated by Chapman Lee

BEIJING HOTEL DIRECTORY

Beijing-Airport Mövenpick Radisson Hotel

Xiao Tianzhu Village, Shunyi County, P.O. Box 6913, Beijing 100621

Tel: 4565588 Telex: 210609 BAMRH CN Fax: 4565678 GM: Thomas A. Kessler

Opened August 1990

420 rooms (including 30 duplex suites and 48 junior suites) Standard S: US\$110, D: US\$125. Introductory rates (valid until 31 March 1991): S \$90, D \$105

Taxi fare to/from airport: US\$2.50 (airport shuttle available: limousine airport pick-up can be arranged one day in advance, cost: US\$10 roundtrip)

Located at Beijing Capital Airport, less than half hour from central Beijing.

Facilities: 24-hour business centre, office rental and meeting rooms, travel desk, outdoor tennis courts, indoor pool, gym, jacuzzi, sauna, solarium, massage, 24-hour room service, restaurants (Swiss, Chinese), pub-bar.

Beijing Asia-Pacific Building

Contact add: No. 8 Ya Bao Lu, Dongcheng District,

Tel: 5139988 Telex: 222677 JHBLD CN Fax: 5125083 120 furnished apartment suites

Located in the city's central business district Facilities: Office rental with business centre, shops, supermarket, karaoke bar, laundrette, function rooms, hairdresser, health spa, squash court, billiard room, Chinese and Western restaurants, cafeteria, children's playground.

Beijing Continental Grand Hotel/Wuzhou Hotel



North Sihuan Road, An Ding Men Wai, Beijing 100101 Tel: 4915588 Telex: 210564 ICH CN Fax: 4910106 GM: Li Songfan 1,259 rooms (1,139 standard and 58 suites) Rates: US\$70-220 Distance from airport: 20 km Located in Asian Games Village. Facilities: Multi-function conference hall, fax, telex, typing, foreign exchange, music bar, 20 restaurants.

Beijing Grace Hotel 新萬壽賓館

No. 8 Jiang Tai West Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100016

Tel: 4362288 Telex: 210599 BJGH CN Fax: 4361818 Soft-opened 30 August 1990

30% introductory room rate discount on published rates, valid until 31 March 1991 (reservations hotline: 4361805). Located in the city centre, near the embassies and with easy access to the airport and major centres of commerce.

Beijing Guotai Hotel 北京國泰飯店

Yong An Xi Li, Jian Guo Men Wai St, Beijing Tel: (switchboard) 5013366; 5016237, 5016232 Telex: 210588 GTH CN Fax: 5013926

GM: Li Kemin

164 rooms and suites Standard: FEC 160 Distance from airport: 27.5 km
Distance from railway station: 2.5 km
Central location within walking distance of CITIC Building.
Facilities: IDD, fax, telex, multi-function hall, meeting rooms, foreign exchange, in-house movies, beauty salon, photo

Beijing Hotel 北京飯店

No. 33 East Chang An Ave, Beijing 100004 Tel: 5137766 Telex: 22426 BHCTL CN Fax: 5137307 Opened 1900

1,000 rooms and suites

developing, several restaurants.

Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990:

The hotel, one of China's best-known and longest established hotels, is located in the heart of the city.

Beijing International Hotel 北京國際飯店

No. 9 Jianguo Mennei Dajie, Beijing Tel: 5126688 Telex: 211121 BIH CN Fax: 5129972 1,049 rooms

Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$120 Facilities: 12 restaurants incl. a revolving one, 24-hour room service, business centre, exchange counter, shopping arcades, supermarket, sports centre with pool, gym, tennis courts and bowling alley.

Beijing New Century Hotel 北京新世紀新店

Xizhimenwai Dajie, Haidian District, Beijing Beijing New Century Hotel Co. Ltd.: No. 5 Erligou, Western Suburbs, Beijing
Tel: 8313388-52238 Telex: 222375 NCH CN

Fax: 8313388-52405

Opening autumn 1990

936 units (762 rooms)

Facilities: Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, bar, lounge, swimming pool, sauna, health club, bowling, tennis, billiards, business centre, supermarket, shops, disco, barber shop, beauty parlour, multi-purpose hall, office rental.

Beijing Overseas Chinese Hotel

No. 5 Santiao Beixinqiao, Eastern District, Beijing 100004 Tel: 4016688 Telex: 210336 BOCH CN Fax: 4012386 GM: Zhang Tianying Opened 1 October 1954 174 rooms October and November 1990 rates: FEC 160-180 December 1990 special rates: FEC 100-120

Distance from airport: 25 km Taxi fare: FEC 35 Distance from railway station: 5 km Located in northeastern part of Beijing.

Beijing Peace Hotel 北京和平賓館



No. 3 Jin Yu Hu Tong, Wangfujing, Beijing Tel: 5128833 Telex: 222855 PHB CN Fax: 5126863 GM: Liu Yanxi 500 rooms Rate: US\$110 Distance from airport: 30 km Distance from railway station: 2 km Located in Wangfujing shopping area in city centre. Facilities: Business centre, swimming pool, whirlpool, health club, beauty salon, sauna, disco, massage, shopping arcade, etc.

Hotel Beijing-Toronto (Jinglun) 京倫飯店



No. 3 Jianguo Men Wai Da Jie, Beijing Tel: 502266 Telex: 210012 JLH CN Fax: 5002022

GM: Takayuki Mızuta

686 rooms and suites Standard: US\$75 (winter 1990 rate US\$60).

Distance from airport: 25 km Taxi fare: about Rmb 40 Distance from railway station: 2 km

Located in city centre, close to International Trade Centre, Friendship Store and embassies.

Facilities: Business centre, Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, banquet halls, florist, cake shop, shops.

Beijing Yanshan Hotel 燕山大酒店

138A Haidian Rd, Beijing 100086

Tel: 2563388 Telex: 211203 YSHBJ CN Fax: 2568640 GM: Patrick J. McDermott Opened February 1989 218 rooms (incl. 34 suites) Rates: room US\$100, suite US\$200 Distance from airport: 33 km Taxi fare: FEC 50 Located in Haidian Economic Zone.

Facilities: Business centre, restaurants and bar, coffee shop, disco, 24-hour room service, sauna and health club, billiard rooms, same day laundry/dry cleaning service, hairdresser, travel agency desk, safe deposit box, money exchange, shopping arcade, CNN 24-hour news, IDD.

Beiwei Hotel 北緯飯店

13 Xijing Rd, Xuanwumen, Beijing Tel: 338631 Cable: 3362 Located west of the Temple of Heaven.

Capital Hotel

No. 3 East Qian Men Street, Beijing 100006 Tel: 5129988 Telex: 222650.CHB CN Fax: 5120323 GM: Cao Huanlin 296 rooms (243 standard, 41 double suites, 11 deluxe suites,

1 presidential suite) Standard: US\$110

Distance from airport: 32 km Distance from railway station: 3 km Taxi fare to/from airport: Rmb 35

Central location about 5 minutes' walk from Tian'anmen



Facilities: Business centre, incl. interpreting and WP services, book store, swimming pool, gym, bowling, billiards, mini-golf, beauty salon, sauna, massage, ticketing and travel services, 17 restaurants and snack bars (Chinese, Japanese, European), gardens.

Capital Mansion 京城大廈

6 Xin Yuan Nan Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027 Tel: 4081114 Telex: 211145 CTITC CN Fax: 483723 241 apartment suites

Located on the bank of River Liangma

Facilities: Office rental, conference hall, Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, recreation centre with health club, swimming pool, bowling alley, billiards, disco and ballroom, post office, hairdresser, laundry, clinic, money exchange, car rental.

China World Hotel 中國大飯店 **Traders Hotel** 國貿飯店



No. 1 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 100004

China World Hotel:

Tel: 5052266 Telex: 211206 CWH CN Fax: 5050828 Opened July 1990

743 rooms Rate: US\$150

Special rate valid 1 December 1990 - 2 February 1991:

Traders Hotel:

Tel: 5050818 Telex: 222981 THBBC CN Fax: 5050818 Opened December 1989

298 rooms Rate: US\$100

Special rate valid 1 December 1990 - 2 February 1991: US\$85

Both hotels:

GM: Al Wymann

Distance from airport: 15 km Taxi fare: US\$15 Distance from railway station: 3 km

Located in eastern part of commercial centre of Beijing, as part of the China World Trade Centre, a 32-acre complex consisting of a conference/exhibition centre, offices and residential space.

Facilities: Business centre, conference and banqueting rooms, Japanese, Chinese and Western restaurants, mini-bar, nightclub/disco, 24-hour room service, health club, gym, sauna, indoor swimming pool, shopping arcade.

Da Du Hotel

No. 21 Che Gong Zhuang Rd, Beijing Tel: 890981-740

Diaoyutai State Guesthouse 釣魚台國賓館

San Li He Rd, Beijing 100830 Tel: 868833 Telex: 22798 DYTSG CN Fax: 8013362 GM: Zhu Gui Yu Opened 1 October 1959 302 rooms Standard: US\$140 Distance from airport: 38 km Taxi fare: FEC 90 Distance from railway station: 12 km Located in western Beijing in the scenic Diaoyutai (Angling Terrace) compound which used to be an imperial dwelling place. The hotel became China's guesthouse for heads of state or government and other distinguished foreign guests in 1959, but now also receives deluxe tour groups. Facilities: Business services, post office, club with recreational facilities and services.

Dongfang Hotel 東方飯店

11 Wanming Rd, Beijing Tel: 3014466 Telex: 222385 DFH CN Fax: 5124654 Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$55

Located in the city's central area Facilities: Restaurants, shop, bar, beauty salon, massage,

sauna, gym, disco, telex, fax, IDD, foreign exchange, air ticket booking.

Dragon Spring Mövenpick Hotel Beijing

Shui Zha North Rd, Mentougou, P.O. Box 9083, Beijing 102300

Tel: 9843362, 9843363 Telex: 222292/3 DSHBJ CN Fax: 3014377

GM: Liu Lihua

235 rooms Rate: US\$50 Special rate until end of 1990: US\$35

Distance from airport: 40 km Taxi fare: around Rmb 250 Facilities: IDD, closed-circuit TV, swimming pool, gym, sauna, tennis court, table tennis, billiards, beauty salon, shopping.

East Lake Villas 東湖别墅



35 Dong Zhi Men Wai St, Dongcheng District, Beijing Tel: 4082221, 4082357 Telex: 211161 8DIAC CN Fax: 4082357

GM: Liu Shiying Opened January 1989

Apartments: 25 3-bedroom, 67 2-bedroom, 46 1-bedroom Monthly rental: US\$6,000, 5,500, 4,000 respectively Villas: 4 4-bedroom, 22 3-bedroom, 10 2-bedroom Monthly rental: US\$10,500, 9,700, 8,700 respectively Office: Total 2,150 sq. m. Monthly rental: US\$1/sq. m. Distance from airport: 22 km Taxi fare: Rmb 26.50 yuan Distance from railway station: 6 km

Facilities: Western and Chinese restaurants, pub, coffee shop, beauty salon, TV game room, massage, sauna, swimming pool, gym, tennis court, squash court, snooker, skating rink, bank, children's play centre and playground, mini-market, telefax. Garden setting.

Exhibition Centre Hotel 北京展覽館賓館

135 Xi Zhi Men Wai St, Beijing 100044 Tel: 8316633 Telex: 222395 BECH CN Fax: 8021450 Regional Sales Office: 1/F, 25-29 Hankow Rd, Tsim Sha Tsui, Kowloon, Hong Kong Tel: 7395179, 7395180 Telex: 55207 TBROS HX Fax: 7245039 GM: Jack Kirks Opened October 1988 250 rooms Rates: single US\$85, double US\$95, suite US\$130 (effective 1/1/91 — 31/12/91)

Distance from airport: 40 min Taxi fare: FEC 50 Located next to Exhibition Centre. Facilities: Business centre, meeting rooms, health club, beauty salon/barber shop, 3 restaurants, American pub,

currency exchange. Garden setting with lake nearby.

Fragrant Hill Hotel, Beijing 北京香山飯店

Liaison Office, Fragrant Hill Hotel, Beijing 100093 Tel: 2565544, 2563601 Telex: 222202 FHH CN Fax: 2566794

Friendship Hotel

友誼賓館

3 Bai Shi Qiao Rd, Beijing 100873 Tel: 8498888 Telex: 222362 FHBJ CN Fax: 8314661 GM: Zhang Junxiao Opened 20 September 1954 1,900 rooms Rates: standard US\$40-60, suite US\$50-100, deluxe suite US\$450 Distance from airport: 33 km Taxi fare: US\$10 Distance from railway station: 16 km Located in western Beijing Facilities: Convention facilities, health club, disco, billiard room, sauna, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, tennis

Grand Hotel Beijing (formerly Beijing Hotel Palace Tower)

北京貴賓樓飯店

33 East Chang An Ave, Beijing 100004 Tel: 5137788 Fax: 5120048 218 rooms and suites Located in the heart of Beijing Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar lounges, function rooms, business centre, health club, IDD.

The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel

Donghuan North Rd, Beijing 100026 Tel: 5005566 Telex: 22002 GWHBJ CN Fax: 5001919 GM: Max Wilhelm Opened December 1983 1,007 rooms and suites Rates: single US\$100, standard US\$115, suite US\$180-875 Winter 1990 special rate: standard US\$70 (incl. 2 breakfasts) Distance/time from airport: 20 km/20 min Taxi fare: about FEC 30 Distance from railway station: 11 km Located in central Beijing adjacent to diplomatic district and close to China International Exhibition Centre. Facilities: Executive business centre, protocol advisor, 10 restaurants (incl. French, Sichuan, Cantonese) and lounges (incl. nightclub), beauty salon and barber shop, IDD, 24-hour room service, foreign exchange, airline offices, tour desk, acupuncture, health club, mini golf

course, indoor heated swimming pool, tennis court,

theatre, function rooms and banqueting facilities.

BEIJING HOTEL DIRECTORY

Hademen Hotel 哈德門飯店

No. A2 Chong Wen Men Wai St, Beijing Tel: 7012244 Telex: 210337 HDMHL CN Fax: 7016865 GM: Fan Guoliang 210 rooms Rates: Rmb 128, 160, 210 Special rates: 10% discount for guests from Taiwan Distance from airport: 33 km Taxi fare: Rmb 78 Distance from railway station: 500 m

Facilities: Business centre, Bian Yi Fang Roast Duck Restaurant.

Holiday Inn Downtown Beijing 北京金都假日飯店

98 Bei Li Shi Lu, Xichengqu, Beijing 100037 Tel: 8322288 Fax: 8024696 GM: Howard Bennett

Opening mid-1990

347 rooms Rates: standard S US\$85, standard twin US\$95, superior US\$130, suite US\$160-335.

Special opening rate valid until October 31 1990: standard single/twin US\$55.

Distance/time from airport: 35 km/40 min Taxi fare: FEC 50

Distance/time from railway station: 13 km/23 min Facilities: Business centre, incl. translation and courier service, safety deposit boxes, 24-hour security, indoor swimming pool, health club, massage, sauna, jacuzzi, banqueting suites, sundry restaurants, incl. Shamiana Indian Restaurant, same-day laundry and valet service, babysitters.

| Holiday Inn Lido Beijing 北京職都假日飯店

Jichang Rd, Jiang Tai Rd, Beijing 100004 Tel: 5006688 Telex: 22618 LIDOH CN Fax: 5006237

GM: Peter Erler

1,029 rooms and suites

Rates: standard/superior US\$120/130, suite US\$260-520, Lido Apts US\$6,000-5,000 per month, some US\$160-205 per day

Distance/time from airport: 15 km/20 min Distance from railway station: 12 km

Located near many embassy compounds in Sanlitun. Facilities: 24-hour business centre, airport pick-up, shuttle bus service to city centre, supermarket and drugstore, banquet and convention facilities, 8 international restaurants, pub, beer garden, money exchange/safe deposit boxes, bank, same-day laundry and valet service, babysitters, 24-hour clinic, beauty and hair salon, Juliana's Disco, Lido Club with full range of recreation and entertainment for foreign residents, incl. golf driving range, fitness centre, swimming pool, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, bowling centre, movie theatrette.

Educational facilities in complex incl. International School of Beijing and International Kindergarten.

Hong Kong Macau Centre, Beijing/Swissôtel Beijing

North Congren Tiyuchang Rd and North Chaoyangmen Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027

Tel: 5012288 Telex: 222527 HKMC CN Fax: 5004660 GM: Heinrich Grafe

Will open April 1991

496 rooms Rates: single US\$100-110, twin/double US\$110-120, suite US\$150-230

Distance/time from airport: 25 km/20 min Taxi fare: US\$7.50

Distance from railway station: 3 km Located in central Beijing, the Hong Kong Macau Centre, Beijing, is a complex consisting of hotel, office and residential towers.

Facilities: Health club with heated indoor pool and sundeck, tennis court, non-smoking floor, business centre, shopping arcade, beauty parlour, laundry, nightclub, coffee shop, Chinese and Western restaurants, lounge, bar, conference room and function rooms.

Hua Du Hotel

8 Xinyuan South Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100004 Tel: 5001166 Telex: 22028 HUADU CN Fax: 5001615 GM: Liu Zhitong 522 rooms Rates: standard US\$40-65, suite US\$75-100 Group rates on request Distance from airport: 21 km

Distance from railway station: 6 km Facilities: 13 restaurants and banquet halls, bar, foreign exchange, clinic, billiard room, ticketing counter, indoor

International Culture Exchange Centre 國際文化交流中心大廈

14 Dong Zhi Men South St, Dongcheng District, Beijing Tel: 482490 5007722 (after opening) Telex: 211262 ICEC CN Fax: 4082231 Scheduled to open in early 1991 280 rooms and suites in hotel division Rates: US\$85-290 Distance from airport: 20-km Distance from railway station: 4 km Facilities: Business services, Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, disco, swimming pool, gym, games room, sauna, beauty parlour, salon, shopping centre. Offices for rental (273 suites). Complex will include business and conference facilities, and exhibition hall.

Jade Palace Hotel 翠宫飯店

No. 76 Zhichun Rd, Shuang Yu Shu, Haidian District, Beijing Tel: 2564422, 2561554, 2561553 Telex: 222886 JPH CN Fax: 2561447 GM: Song Huazhao 145 rooms and suites Rates (valid until December 1990): standard FEC 140, double FEC 180, suite FEC 240 Distance from airport: 32 km Taxi fare: Rmb 40 Distance from railway station: 17 km Located near universities, colleges and Chinese Academy of Sciences in Zhongguancun Science Town area.
Facilities: Business services, incl. PC, Chinese restaurant, bar, billiards, beauty parlour, foreign exchange.

Jianguo Hotel 建國飯店

5 Jianguo Men Wai Da Jie, Beijing 100020 Tel: 5002233 Telex: 22439 JGHBJ CN Fax: 5002871 GM: Chen Jun 461 rooms and suites Rates: standard US\$115 Distance/time from airport: 27 km/30 min Taxi fare: US\$20 Distance from railway station: 3 km Located near diplomatic quarter in city's business district. Facilities: 24-hour business centre, Chinese, Western and Japanese restaurants, ballroom/banquet hall, foreign exchange, video rental, drycleaning, 24-hour room service, heated indoor swimming pool, airport shuttle bus.

Ji Men Hotel 蓟門飯店

College Rd, Haidian District, Beijing Tel: 2012211 Telex: 222325 JMH CN Fax: 2015355 300 rooms and suites

Facilities: Restaurant, bar, shop, billiard room, conference

Jingfeng Hotel

71 Fengtai Rd, Beijing 100071 Tel: 3812233 Telex: 22548 JFH CN Fax: 3813307 GM: Liu Xijun 569 rooms Rate: Rmb 120



Distance from airport: 48 km Taxi fare: Rmb 50 Distance from railway station: 3 km Facilities: Conference rooms, auditorium, restaurants, foreign exchange, beauty salon, shopping centre.

Jing Guang New World Hotel 京廣新世界飯店

Hu Jia Lou, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100020
Tel: 5018888 Telex: 210489 BJJCC CN Fax: 5013333
GM: Brian Leong Opened 18 June 1990
492 rooms Rates: standard US\$110 (Dynasty Club Floor US\$130), superior US\$130 (DCF US\$150), deluxe US\$160 (DCF US\$180), suite US\$360 (DCF US\$450 and up) Distance from airport: 26 km Taxi fare: about FEC 35 (hotel limousine FEC 40) Distance from railway station: 7 km Located in eastern Beijing with easy access to both financial and embassy districts.

Facilities: 14 food and beverage outlets, incl. Chaozhou and Cantonese restaurants, karaoke lounge and Food Street, 24-hour room service, beauty salon, supermarket, medical clinic, shopping arcade, business floors and lounge, office rental (hotel is in Jing Guang Centre, which also has office tower and apartments).

Kunlun Hotel

崐崙飯店

2 Xin Yuan South Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing Tel: 5003388 Telex: 210327 BJKLH CN Fax: 5003228 GM: Yang Yuanping Opened 26 November 1988 978 rooms Rates: standard US\$110 Distance from airport: 17 km Taxi fare: about US\$6 Distance from railway station: 8 km Located in the northeastern part of the city. Facilities: Business centre, small banquet halls, function hall, revolving restaurant (Western) and Chinese restaurants, coffee shop, bars, karaoke, laundry, sauna, beauty salon, supermarket and shopping centre, billiards, disco, outdoor tennis court, indoor swimming pool, flower shop, colour photo service.

Le You Hotel

13 Dongsanhuan Rd (S), Chaoyang District, Beijing Tel: 784752, 784761 Telex: 20078 PDTCO CN Fax: 7711636 160 rooms Facilities: Japanese and Chinese restaurants, disco, bars.

Liang Ma Hotel & Apartments 亮馬酒店

No. 8 North Dongsanhuan Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing Tel: 5016688 Telex: 210301 LTC CN Fax: 5013513 GM: Tan Dongfang Opened September 1990 500 rooms and suites Hotel rates (valid to 31 December 1990): standard twin US\$65, superior single US\$75,

suite US\$80-200 (government rates: US\$50, 60, 70-175 respectively) 240 1, 2 and 3-bedroom apartments

Distance/time from airport: 25 km/30 min Taxi fare: FEC 30 yuan Distance from railway station: 11 km

Facilities: Business centre, health club, indoor swimming pool, tennis and squash courts, restaurants, disco, karaoke lounge, projected Sino-German polyclinic in office tower.

Ming Yuan Hotel

Hu Zhuang, Shisanling, P.O. Box 1003, Beijing Tel: 9746831 Telex: 222486 BMYH CN GM: Duan Duo 105 double room, 35 suites Rates: double FEC 100, suite FEC 150-280 Distance from airport: 49 km Distance from railway station: 8 km Located 42 km northwest of the city, in the scenic Ming Tombs area

Facilities: Coffee shop, bar, disco, sauna, billiards, clinic, shops, conference room, beauty salon, laundry, foreign exchange, photocopying and typesetting (Chinese and English) services, telex, fax, IDD.

Minzu Hotel 民族飯店

51 Fu Xing Men Nei St, Beijing 100046 Tel: 6014466 Telex: 22990/22991 MZHTL CN Fax: 6014849 GM: Qi Yanzong 615 rooms and suites Rates: FEC 195, special rate FEC 175 Distance from airport: 37 km Taxi fare: FEC 60 Distance from railway station: 5 km Facilities: Chinese, Western, Japanese speciality restaurants, banquet hall, conference room, beauty salon, gym,

Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong

office, car rental.

26 Jian Guo Men Wai St, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100022 Tel: 5125555 Telex: 222936 BCFGH CN Fax: 5139813 GM: Kunihiko Mizuno

billiards, telephone, telex, fax, foreign exchange, post

Soft-opened 1 April 1989; grand opening 1 September 1989 512 rooms Rates: twin US\$110-120, deluxe twin US\$130-140 Distance from airport: 35 km

Distance from railway station: 0.5 km

Facilities: Business centre, 6 banquet/conference rooms, Western, Chinese and Japanese restaurants, coffee shop, lounge, health club (incl. gym, indoor pool, tennis courts, sauna), barber shop and beauty salon, shopping arcade.

New World Tower

No. 4 Gongti Donglu, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027 Tel: 5007799-333, 5007787 Telex: 210530 NWTBJ CN Fax: 5007668, 5008228 GM: Richard Cheung Opened 25 January 1990 85 hotel rooms and 135 studio and apartment suites

Rates: single US\$60, twin US\$85

Time from airport and railway station by car: 20 and 15 min respectively Taxi fare from airport: US\$8

Located in the heart of Beijing
Facilities: Conference room, shopping arcade, supermarket, nursery, Chinese, Japanese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, lounge, IDD, 15 floors of studio and apartment suites, business centre, karaoke, health club.

Olympic Hotel 奥林匹克飯店

52 Baishiqiao Rd, Haidian District, Beijing 100081 Tel: 8316688 Telex: 222749 OLHTL CN Fax: 8318390 GM: Shu Kit, Ivan

338 rooms (incl. 54 deluxe suites and 2 Royal Suites) Rates: single US\$95–110, twin US\$105–120, suite US\$200, Royal Suite US\$400

Special winter package of 50% discount on all rooms until 31 March 1991 (incl. 20% off laundry services, all F & B outlets, business centre services and beauty salon, welcome drink and fruit basket).

Distance/time from airport: 45 min



Located in western part of city close to Capital Gymnasium, National Library, etc. Facilities: Restaurants, bar, 24-hour business centre/ secretarial services, Chinese physiotherapy centre, souvenir shop, beauty parlour, airline bookings and reservations service, sightseeing tours arrangement, laundry.

The Palace Hotel 王府飯店

8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing, Beijing 100006 Tel: 5128899 - Telex: 222696 PALBJ CN Fax: 5129050 GM: Han C.A. Brouwers 578 rooms and suites Rates: standard US\$100-180 Distance from airport: 35 km Taxi fare: FEC 45 Opened on 1 March 1989 Located in the centre of Beijing, between two main shopping streets, Wangfujing and Dongdan, and close to the major commercial, diplomatic and government offices. Facilities: French, Italian, German, Cantonese, Sichuan and Japanese restaurants, coffee house, bars, lounges, nightclubs, billiard room, gift shop, banqueting and conference facilities, bank, babysitting, clinic, delicatessen, disco, florist, health club, hairdressing salon, swimming pool, sightseeing tours, valet, business centre, executive floors.

The Park Hotel Beijing 北京百樂酒店

36 Pu Huang Yu Rd, Beijing 100075 Tel: 7212233 Telex: 22968 PARK CN Fax: 7211615 GM: Dai Lihua Opened 3 August 1987 208 rooms Rates: October FEC 140–144 (incl. breakfast), November FEC 100 (incl. breakfast), December-March 91 FEC 80 (incl. breakfast). Distance from airport: about 40 km Taxi fare: Rmb 90 Distance from railway station: about 5 km Taxi fare: Rmb 11 Located in southern Beijing,

Parkview Tiantan Hotel

1 Tiyuguan Rd, Chongwen District, Beijing 100061 Tel: 7012277 Telex: 221034 TTH CN Fax: 7016833 GM: Methew M.H. Ng Soft-opened 19 September 1990 510 rooms and suites Rate: US\$70 Distance from airport and railway station: 35 and 3 km respectively

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, lounge, karaoke disco, shopping arcade, gym, sauna and massage room, video games room, billiard room, hair salon, laundry, minibar, business centre, IDD.

Qianmen Hotel 前門飯店

No. 175 Yongan Rd, Beijing Tel: 3016688-8814 Telex: 222382 QMHTL CN Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$60

Ramada Asia Hotel Beijing

北京華美達亞洲大酒店

No. 8 Xinzhong West St, Gongti North Rd, Beijing Tel: 5007788 Telex: 210597 AHR CN Fax: 5008091 GM: Werner R. Schmidt Soft-opened 28 August 1990 270 rooms and 28 suites Rates: US\$120-600 30-min drive from airport and railway station Taxi fare to/from airport: US\$5 Located in eastern part of city, convenient to embassy and business districts.

Facilities: Chinese, Mediterranean and Korean restaurants, coffee house, pizza and noodle shop, lounges, disco, delicatessen, health club, beauty salon, gift shop, banqueting and meeting facilities, business centre, 75 furnished one and two-bedroom apartments, Residents' Club.

Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing

北京香格里拉飯店

29 Zizhuyuan Rd, Beijing 100081 Tel: 8412211 Telex: 222322 SHABJ CN Fax: 8418002/3 GM: Michael Branchett 743 rooms and suites Main Bldg: room US\$155-195, suite US\$300-800 West Wing: standard US\$105, office unit US\$90, office suite US\$160-180, suite US\$200



Distance from airport: 35 km Taxi fare: US\$38 Distance from railway station: 15 km Located close to Negotiations Building and Exhibition Facilities: Chinese, Continental and Italian restaurants,

coffee shop, lounge, bar, delicatessen, disco, health club, swimming pool, banqueting and meeting facilities, business centre, IDD.

Taiwan Hotel

台灣飯店

5-15 Jinyu Wutong, Wangfujing North, Beijing Tel: 5120593 Fax: 5120591 268 rooms and 14 suites Rates: room US\$80-110, suite US\$160-250 Distance from airport and railway station: 30 and 2 km

respectively

Facilities: Business centre, health club, beauty salon, resident doctor, travel agency, airline office, shopping arcade, restaurants, function and banqueting rooms.

Tianlun Dynasty Hotel 北京天倫王朝飯店

50 Wangfujing Ave, Beijing 100006 Tel: 5138888 Telex: 210575 TLH CN Fax: 5137866 Resident Manager: Benny K. Neumann 408 rooms and suites Rates: room US\$120–220, suite US\$250–3,000 Introductory rate of 40 % off published rack rates; residential and long-term rates on request.

Distance from airport: 35 km Taxi fare: FEC40-50

Distance from railway station: 6-7 km Located in commercial centre near the Forbidden City.

BEIJING HOTEL DIRECTORY



Facilities: 7 restaurants (incl. Western, Vietnamese, Guangdong and Mongolian), cocktail lounges, disco, fitness centre with sauna, swimming pool, squash and tennis courts, solarium, shopping arcade, business centre, conference rooms.

Tianping Lee Gardens Hotel

No. 2 Jianguomennan Avenue, Beijing 100022 Tel: 5138855 Fax: 5120619 GM: Charles Yuen Opened 1 September 1990

430 rooms Rates: standard US\$100, superior US\$110, suite US\$180-800; Executive Floor: room US\$140, suite US\$200-230

Distance/time from airport: 30 min
Distance/time from railway station: 5 min
Located in the heart of Beijing's commercial district and
embassy area.

Facilities: Business centre, Lawyers Club, restaurants, coffee shop, lounge, pub, meeting and banqueting halls and facilities, indoor swimming pool, health club incl. gym, sauna and massage, shops, babysitting, valet and laundry, money exchange, safe deposit boxes.

Xin Da Du Hotel 新大都飯店

No. 21 Che Gong Zhuang St, Beijing 100044
Tel: 8319988 Telex: 222477 DDH CN Fax: 8311818
Opening late 1990 400 rooms and suites
Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$120
Facilities: More than 10 restaurants, indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna and massage room, beauty salon, electronic games, billiard room, bowling, karaoke, disco, business centre

Xinqiao Hotel 新爆板店

2 Dong Jiao Min Xiang St, Beijing Tel: 557731-757 Telex: 222514 XQH CN Fax: 5125126 Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$70

Xiyuan Hotel 西茶飯店

Erligou, Western Suburbs, Beijing Tel: 8313388 Telex: 22831–22834 XYH CN Fax: 8314577 GM: Li Tong Opened August 1985

Dec 90–Mar 91 US\$40, Apr–Nov 91 US\$63, Dec 90–Mar 91 US\$40, Apr–Nov 91 US\$50 Distance from airport: 32 km Taxi fare: Rmb 50

Located in western Beijing
Facilities: Indoor swimming pool, gym, sauna, beauty salon,
massage, clinic, shops, post and telecommunications,
laundry, 13 restaurants incl. a Moslem and a revolving one.

Yanjing Hotel 燕京飯店

19 Fuxingmenwai Ave, Beijing 100046 Tel: 868721 Telex: 20028 YJHTL CN 449 rooms and 58 suites Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$60

Yanxiang Hotel

蒸翔飯店

No. A2 Jiang Tai Rd, Dong Zhi Men Wai, Beijing Tel: 5006666 Telex: 210014 YXH CN Fax: 5006231 371 rooms and suites

Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$55 Facilities: 16 Western and Chinese restaurants incl. one featuring Dai nationality dishes, business centre, IDD, post office, money exchange, conference rooms, swimming pool, billiard room, beauty salon, massage, shopping arcade, tour service, shuttle bus to city centre.

Yong'an Apartment Hotel 永安公寓

5A Zaoying Rd (N), Dongsanhuan, Beijing Tel: 5011188 Cable: 5812 BEIJING 2-room, 3-room and 5-room suites Standard 2-room suite rate: US\$55 per day (long-term tenants)

Facilities: Banquet halls/restaurants, shops, bar, karaoke, shuttle bus, children's playground, business centre, health and entertainment centre incl. gym, sauna, billiards and clinic. All suites have modern kitchens.

Yulong Hotel 裕龍大酒店

West Diao Yu Tai, Fucheng Rd, Beijing Tel: 8312164 Maximum standard room rate for peak season 1990: US\$45

Zhao Long Hotel 兆龍飯店



No. 2 Workers' Stadium North Rd, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100027
Tel: S002299 Telex: 210079 ZLH CN Fax: 5003319
GM: Chen Xuhua
270 rooms Rates: US\$73
Distance from airport: 24 km Taxi fare: US\$8
Distance from railway station: 10 km
Located in the eastern part of city close to embassies.
Facilities: 9 restaurants, function hall, sauna, swimming pool, beauty salon, massage, bank, postal service, international communications, shops.
The hotel is under renovation but is expected to be

completed during the winter of 1990.

Zi Wei Hotel 紫薇實館

No. 40 Shijingshan South Rd, Beijing 100043
Tel: 876931 Telex: 222619 ZWH CN Fax: 876485
GM: He Deli
180 rooms Rates: standard US\$20, twin US\$25
Distance from airport: 80 km
Distance from railway station: 20 km
Located in western part of the city, about five minutes

from the Shijingshan amusement park.
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, disco, banquet hall, laundry.



Contributions!

tell about your experiences in China? Do you have practical travel tips you would like to pass on to other travellers? Have you taken high-quality photographs which you feel other readers would appreciate?

We are always happy to receive such contributions and readers whose offerings we find we can use will of course be compensated accordingly. Please contact our Editorial Department for further details.



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- 1. Provision of services for overseas enterprises and companies, imports and exports, commercial cooperation
- 2. Wholesale trade in Chinese and foreign goods
- 3. Warehousing, cold-storage and transport services
- 4. Special services for Overseas Chinese and compatriots from Taiwan and Hong Kong as well as for Chinese going abroad on business trips, whereby they can make payments in Hong Kong and collect the goods in China. A collection service is available in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Fuzhou, Xiamen, Quanzhou, Shenzhen, Gongbei, Shantou, Haikou, Liusha, Kaiping and Meixian, and is applicable to the following articles: TV sets, refrigerators, washing machines, video recorders, radio/recorders, motorbikes, bicycles, sewing machines, electric fans, etc.

We would be happy to receive your visit. We also accept commissions by mail, telephone or other channels. For overseas clients, an order can be made by mail with bank draft; the voucher necessary to collect purchases in China will be mailed back by return.





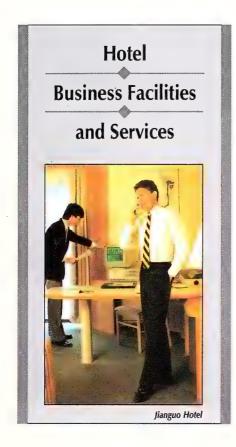




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Beijing-Airport Mövenpick Radisson Hotel:

24-hour business centre that provides telex, telefax, IDD, photocopying, printshop, secretarial services, PC; office_rental and meeting rooms; multi-purpose function room for banquets and meetings for up to 450 persons.

Beijing Continental Grand Hotel:

Multi-functional conference hall, fax, telex, photocopying, typing.

Beijing Guotai Hotel:

Multi-function hall, meeting rooms, fax, telex, photocopying, IDD.

Beijing International Hotel:

Business centre.

Beijing New Century Hotel:

Business centre, multi-purpose hall, office rental.

Beijing Overseas Chinese Hotel:

Fax, telex, IDD, photocopying, typing.

Beijing Peace Hotel:

Business centre.

Hotel Beijing-Toronto:

Business centre that provides telex, fax, express mail delivery, photocopying, typing (Chinese and other languages).

Beijing Yanshan Hotel:

Business centre.

Capital Hotel:

Business centre that provides secretarial and interpretation services, telex, fax, duplication, and word-processing facilities; conference facilities; plus 45 suites in three-storey business building for office use with international communication facilities and parking.

China World Hotel:

Business centre with secretarial services, translation, duplicating, photocopying, courier, telex, fax, postal and packaging service, typing; private rooms for meetings and interviews. Banquet and conference facilities incl. main conference hall for

2,000 guests, 36 meeting and function rooms, and grand ballroom for up to 1,100 guests. The hotel also offers "Club 21" executive floors with round-the-clock valet service. Adjacent to the hotel proper, which is an integral part of the new China World Trade Centre, is an exhibition centre of 7,300 sq.m.

Diaoyutai State Guesthouse:

Business facilities and services incl. fax, telex, photocopying, typing, money exchange and post office.

Dongfang Hotel:

Telex, fax, typing, photocopying.

Exhibition Centre Hotel:

Business centre with telex, cable, fax, photocopying and secretarial services.

Grand Hotel Beijing:

Business centre and function rooms.

The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel:

24-hour executive business centre with fax, telex, IDD, secretarial services, translation, PC, photocopying. The hotel has a grand ballroom for up to 1,500 people and 5 function rooms for 20-50 people, most of the rooms being equipped with multi-lingual translation and audiovisual facilities.

Hademen Hotel:

Business centre with services incl. photocopying.

Holiday Inn Downtown Beijing:

Business centre with photocopying, translation, secretarial and courier services, telex and fax transmissions.

Holiday Inn Lido Beijing:

24-hour business centre with photocopying, translation, secretarial and courier services, telex and fax transmissions. It also offers economic data consultancy services in collaboration with MOFERT (Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade). Banquet and convention facilities incl. 3 ballrooms and 4 function rooms equipped with audiovisual system.

Hua Du Hotel:

Service centre with fax, typing and photocopying services.

International Culture Exchange Centre:

Complex will include 1,450-seat modern theatre for conferences and performances with 6-language simultaneous interpretation system, 5000-seat multi-function hall and exhibition hall of 1,200 sq.m. Offices and suites for rental in office towers. Other services incl. telex, fax, typing and photocopying.

Jade Palace Hotel:

Business centre with fax, telex, IDD, PC, typing and photocopying services.

Jianguo Hotel:

Executive rooms for business travellers, 24-hour business centre with bilingual secretarial service, interpreters, typing, photocopying, fax, telex and cable services. Meeting and convention facilities incl. grand ballroom divisible into 4 banquet/function rooms and the Montery Room for banquet, theatre and conference use.

li Men Hotel:

Conference room.

Jingfeng Hotel:

Auditorium and conference halls.

Jing Guang New World Hotel:

Exclusive Dynasty Club floors and lounge for business travellers and 24-hour business centre. The hotel is part of Jing Guang Centre which also has office tower and apartments.

Kunlun Hotel:

24-hour business centre, function hall with 6-language simultaneous interpretation.

Liang Ma Hotel & Apartments:

Business centre. The hotel is part of a complex incl. the 28-storey Liang Ma Office Tower.

Ming Yuan Hotel:

Business services incl. photocopying, Chinese and English typing, telex, fax, IDD. There is a multi-function hall for banquet, conference and performance use.

Minzu Hotel:

Services and facilities incl. telex, fax, banquet and conference halls.

Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong:

Business centre with fax, telex, typing and photocopying services.

New World Tower:

Business centre and conference room.

Olympic Hotel:

24-hour business centre with secretarial services.

The Palace Hotel:

24-hour business centre with photocopying, translation, fax, telex, etc.; full range of banqueting and conference facilities with simultaneous translation and audiovisual equipment; Palace Club floors for business travellers.

Parkview Tiantan Hotel:

Business centre.

Ramada Asia Hotel Beijing:

Business centre, ballroom for up to 300 people, 7 function/meeting rooms.

Shangri-La Hotel, Beijing:

Fully equipped 24-hour business centre, ballroom for 1,000 people, 13 smaller function rooms for meetings and interviews, full convention facilities incl. simultaneous translation; Horizon Floor for business travellers in main building, office unit and executive office suite in west wing.

Tianlun Dynasty Hotel:

Business centre with secretarial services and communications; Dynasty Floor (opening Dec. 1990) with own business centre, conference rooms and private check-in for business travellers; grand ballroom for up to 600 people and various function rooms.

Tianping Lee Gardens Hotel:

Business centre with secretarial, translation, telex, fax, photocopying and courier services; Lawyers Club with pub, law

library, private meeting rooms and lawyers' offices to provide legal consultation services; executive floor with private lounge; banquet hall for 350 people and 4 equipped function rooms; each guestroom is also equipped with a writing desk.

Traders Hotel:

24-hour business centre with photocopying, secretarial services, translation, interpretation, courier, telex and fax transmission, adjacent conference room, banquet and meeting room of 200 sq.m. The hotel is part of the China World Trade Centre, incl. office tower, banquet and convention centre and exhibition centre.

Xin Da Du Hotel:

Business centre with telex, fax, typing, photocopying services.

Yanxiang Hotel:

Business centre and conference rooms.

Yong'an Apartment Hotel:

Business centre with photocopying, typing, telex and fax; banquet halls.

Zhao Long Hotel:

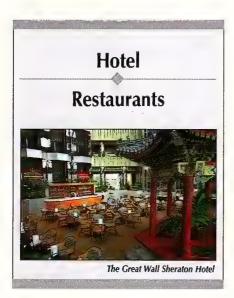
International communications and function hall.

Zi Wei Hotel:

Fax, telex and banquet hall.







Business travellers who need to impress customers and contacts, or who want a change from local restaurants, will find a wide choice in Beijing's hotels. Here are just a few.

Cantonese

Chao Yang Fang at the Exhibition Centre Hotel is famous for its seafood and Chaozhou dishes from the southern province of Guangdong.

Address: 135 Xizhimenwai Dajie (tel: 8316633 ext. 7025)

Fortune Garden at the Palace Hotel also specializes in fresh seafood and has resident musicians.

Address: 8 Goldfish Lane, Wangfujing (tel: 5128899 ext. 7405)

Summer Palace at the China World Hotel is located off the main lobby of the hotel and can take up to 300 guests.

Address: No. 1 Jianguomenwai Dajie (tel: 5052266 ext. 34)

Huai'an and Yangzhou

The Fan at the Great Wall Sheraton Hotel serves top-quality dishes from areas south of the Yangtse River.

Address: Donghuan North Rd (tel: 5005566 ext. 2237)

Shanghai

Shanghai Cuisine at the Kunlun Hotel at 2 Xinyuan South Rd (tel: 5003388 ext. 2394)

Vegetarian

Vegetarians at the Beijing International Hotel at 9 Jianguomennei Dajie (tel: 5126688)

French

La Brasserie at the Shangri-La Hotel at 29 Zizhuyuan Rd (tel: 8412211 ext. 2719)

German

Bauernstube at the Holiday Inn Lido Beijing at Jichang Rd, Jiang Tái Rd (tel: 5006688)

Indian

Shamiana at the Holiday Inn Downtown Beijing, the city's first Indian restaurant with an Indian chef.

Address: 98 Beilishi Rd, Xicheng District (tel: 8322288)

Italian

Peppino at the Shangri-La Hotel at 29 Zizhuyuan Rd (tel: 8412211)

Japanese

Kyotaru at the Capital Hotel at 3 East Qianmen St (tel: 5129988 ext. 3333/7777) **Sakura** at the Hotel New Otani Chang Fu Gong at 26 Jianguomenwai Dajie (tel: 5125555 ext. 1226)

Miscellaneous

Jing Guang Food Street at the Jing Guang New World Hotel offers over 100 dishes with prices starting at 5 yuan per serving. There are steamed and baked pastries, noodles, Sichuan, Guangdong, Chaozhou and even Japanese dishes.

Address: Hujia Lou (tel: 5008888 ext. 2532, 2533)

House of Noodles at the Holiday Inn Lido Beijing offers Cantonese noodles and congee. Address: Jichang Rd, Jiang Tai Rd (tel: 5006688 ext. 1548)

Around Fig. 699999

The most convenient means of transport for those who do not have unlimited time to master public transport (which is very crowded and necessitates good elbow skills, a sense of humour and lots of patience) are taxis and hired cars.

However, taxis in Beijing cannot be hailed on the streets. You should arrange a taxi through the hotel concierge or reception desk, or take your chance in the taxi queue at the entrance to any hotel. If you are staying at one of the higher-class hotels and are out and about in the city, you can phone the hotel and arrange to have them collect you (if you can find a phone!). This too is best arranged in advance.

Charges are generally FEC 6.80 yuan for the first four kilometres, then 1 to 1.20 per further kilometre, depending on the make of vehicle. Santana, Mitsubishi, Toyota, Ford and Mercedes Benz models are available. One point to note is that, in China, tipping is not obligatory.

The Beijing Capital Taxi Co., the largest transport organization in Beijing, owns cars, buses, coaches and minibuses. Limousines can be hired around the clock, including for half a day or a full day (your hotel will do this too). The fee for a full day should be around FEC 190 yuan.

The bigger hotels usually have their own fleet of limousines and also provide a shuttle bus service (sometimes free) to the airport, city centre, etc.

N E W S

Princely Garden Open to Public

One of Beijing's oldest and most interesting private gardens is now open to the public. The garden of the Prince Gong Mansion was first laid out in 1777 by He Shen, a minister during the Qianlong reign (1736-1795) of the Qing dynasty, when it was his home. He Shen was impeached in the early years of the Jiaqing reign (1796-1820) and his property confiscated. The mansion and garden were granted to Prince Gong in

As is usual with traditional Chinese gardens, it contains groups of buildings and sundry galleries, as well as several artificial hills and a pond. During the period of the 11th Asian Games, a party will be staged every evening from 7 pm until midnight to provide visitors with glimpses of the entertainments available and the lifestyle enjoyed in a Qing prince's home. Admission is the equivalent of HK\$234 a head.

Hotel Update

A latecomer to the Beijing hotel scene in the run-up to the 11th Asian Games is the **Beijing Grace Hotel**. Soft-opened at the end of August, this is located in the capital's Chaoyang District. There is a 30% introductory discount off published rates, valid until March 31 1991.

Another, formally opened in Beijing on September 1, is the **Tianping Lee Gardens Hotel**, managed by the Lee Gardens International Group. Situated just off Jianguomenwai, this complex has 430 guestrooms with some of Beijing's most modern facilities for the business traveller, including a fully equipped business centre, a law library, and lawyers' offices.

Still newer is the **Parkview Tiantan Hotel**, soft-opened on September 19.
With 510 standard rooms and suites,
Chinese and Western restaurants and a *karaoke* disco, the hotel in the Chongwen
District near Tiantan (Temple of Heaven)
Park is managed by Kingsway Hotel
Management Co. Ltd.

in Shanghai, the deluxe **Xinjinjiang Hotel** on Huaihai Road has opened after a year's trial operation. This 43-storey building has 728 rooms and six restaurants, including the rotating Lantian (Blue Heaven) Restaurant on the top storey.

Performing Dolphins in Dalian

China's first aquarium with performing dolphins opened this August in the port of Dalian in the northeastern province of Liaoning. A joint venture between the city authorities and a Hong Kong company, the aquarium can seat 1,500 spectators. Apart from the present pair of dolphins from the Taiwan Straits, two more dolphins plus two trained sealions are to join the line-up in the near future.

Commemorative Coins

To mark the 11th Asian Games this autumn, the People's Bank of China has issued two special one-yuan coins.

In addition, the People's Bank has issued a set of coins in an envelope adorned with pictures of Pan Pan, the panda mascot for the Games. The set consists of one gold and four silver coins, with the emblem of the Games and various competition venues engraved on the obverse. On the reverse, the gold coin features gymnastics, the silver ones badminton, diving, weightlifting and cycling.

Air Industry News

Air China has established a branch office in Tianjin which will handle cargo and passenger services on regional, national and international airlines. The Tianjin cargo transportation centre will have a 10,000-square-metre warehouse and modern loading/unloading equipment, with an annual capacity of 80,000 tons.

Also at Tianjin, the new airport terminal went into operation in September. Built to handle the expected increase in passenger traffic during the 11th Asian Games, it was completed in fifteen months. The 20,000-square-metre terminal can process a maximum of 1,000 passengers per hour.

Meanwhile in Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, preparations are almost complete for the first phase of construction of the Tianhe International Airport. The airport, which is expected to cost around 340 million yuan, will be able to handle 1,700 passengers per hour at peak periods. Its annual capacity will be 4.2 million passengers and 330,000 tons of freight.

The airport in Hefei, provincial capital of Anhui, has been receiving chartered flights from Hong Kong since mid-1988. After installation of up-to-date equipment over the past few years and construction of customs, quarantine and other facilities, it has now been approved for international services.

Alataw Pass Border Facilities

In connection with the completion of the third Sino-Soviet rail link via Xinjiang, establishing a 12,000-kilometre intercontinental link to Europe, a port of entry at the Alataw Pass has been approved. The Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region already has five border crossings (not all open to foreigners) and an international airport. At the Alataw Pass in the Bortala Mongolian Autonomous Prefecture in nothwestern Xinjiang customs, immigration, quarantine and goods inspection facilities are under construction and work is proceeding on the railway station.

Dragonair's Beijing Office Opened

THE CHAPATE

Early this August, Dragonair formally opened its Beijing office in the China World Tower. Dragonair already operates flights to nine cities in China - more than any other foreign airline - and applications for fifteen more destinations are pending. Further expansion plans should boost the number of Hong Kong-Beijing and Hong Kong-Shanghai flights from five to seven times a week. The airline now enjoys self-ticketing rights in Beijing, meaning that passengers do not need to go through CAAC. This service is to be extended to Shanghai, Xiamen, Kunming, Hangzhou and Dalian in the near future. Dragonair technically took over operation of Cathav Pacific's China flights in April this year.

More Openings to Foreigners

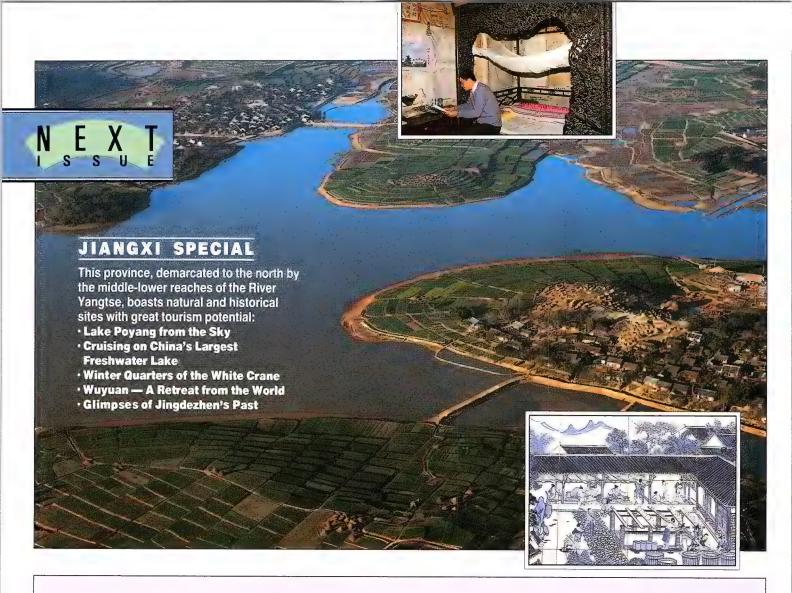
A further thirty-eight counties and cities were officially declared open to foreign tourists in July 1990, bringing the total to 664 places accessible with a valid visa.

In Yunnan, the new areas are the towns of Baoshan and Wanding, and the counties of Tengchong, Longling, Luxi and Ruili (see CHINA TOURISM no. 120).

In Hebei: the town of Hengshui, the counties of Gaocheng, Anguo, Anxin and Wuqiao, and the Mengcun Hui Autonomous County.

In Inner Mongolia: Arun Banner, Ergun Left Banner, and the Oroqen, Ewenki and Morin Dawa Daur Autonomous Banners.

In Jiangxi: the towns of Fengcheng and Zhangshu, and the counties of Tonggu, Jing'an, Ninggang, Yongxin, Suichuan, Taihe, Xingan, Yongfeng, Nancheng, Lichuan, Guangchang, Jinxi, Dongxiang, Ruijin, Shicheng, Xingguo, Anyuan, Shangyou and Chongyi.



Guilin Tourist Express Train

Scenic Guilin in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region is notoriously difficult to reach by train or air, simply because of its popularity and consequent overloading of existing services. The Guilin Tourist Express, operated by the Guangzhou Railway Administration Bureau, should ease the problem. The express train takes sixteen hours to cover the 400 kilometres between Guangzhou and Guilin, leaving Guangzhou at 7 pm and arriving in Guilin on the following morning at 11 am. It has nineteen carriages, including seven soft-sleeper, two hard-sleeper and four hard-seat, as well as two air-conditioned dining cars. One of these converts to a karaoke bar in the evenina!

'Splendid China' by Night

From August 20 this year, the 'Splendid China' complex in Guangdong's Shenzhen has been staying open until 10 pm every Saturday evening. The last bus from the complex to Shenzhen's railway station leaves at 10:30 pm.

IDD Service Expanded

From the beginning of September, Hongkong Telephone's international direct dialing (IDD) service has been expanded to another 180 cities in China. These cities, spread across twenty-three provinces, bring the total number of Chinese cities accessible via IDD to 444. Many more IDD link-ups are expected over the next few years as a result of the continuing expansion and upgrading of China's telecommunications network.

New Air Routes

Xiamen in Fujian and Guiyang, capital of Guizhou, are now linked by Southwest China Airways. The flight by Boeing 737-300 takes one hour and forty-five minutes and is operated every Saturday.

Twelve new air routes are to be launched under the auspices of the Civil Aviation Association of China (CAAC) this coming winter and spring. They include Wuhan-Wenzhou, Xi'an-Wuhan-Wenzhou, Guangzhou-Jinan, Chongqing-Taiyuan-Shenyang, Dalian-Nanjing, Harbin-Hangzhou, Changchun-Nanjing and Fuzhou-Luoyang.

Bike China Tours

Anyone who fancies the thought of exploring China's rural south on a bicycle will be tempted by specialist cycling tours to China organized by a Hong Kong company. Tours vary in length from two to eighteen days and can be tailored to special requirements; both mountain and touring bikes are available for participants. Each tour is led by experienced cyclist and bike mechanic lain Dacre and accompanied by a Chinese interpreter. Guangdong is the major region covered, but some tours include Hainan and Fujian. All inquiries to Bike China Tours, G.P.O. Box 9484, Hong Kong.

Egret Reserve in City Centre

A reserve dedicated to egrets is to be set up in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province in central China and famed as one of China's greenest cities. Apparently the egret reserve will be in the city proper. The local authorities have stipulated that the egrets may not be hunted nor their nests destroyed, and motor vehicles may not sound their horns in the vicinity.

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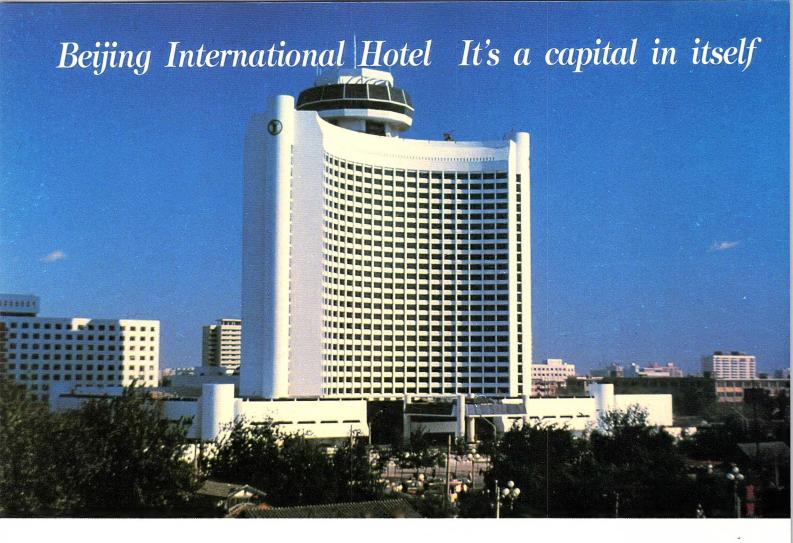
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